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THURSDAY MARCH 21ST, 2019

**Fears over hostel facilities -  
see page 3 for the full story.**

**Lego man art appears as tribute to  
local schoolgirl - turn to page 8.**

## Police issues warm tribute to colleague Mel

**SOUTH** Wales Police have issued a warm tribute to one of their colleagues, saying that it was with "immense sadness" that they had learned of the death of their "cherished colleague" PC Melanie Pascoe who served in the dog section.

In a statement, Superintendent Mark Hobrough who knew her well, said: "We are all deeply saddened by the sudden and tragic loss of our friend and colleague Mel. Having joined South Wales Police in 1999, Mel served in Bridgend and was a proactive and enthusiastic front-line officer.

"She aspired from her first day in the police to be a dog handler and in 2005 she realised this ambition when she joined the dog section and passed out with her first general police dog Jay.



"I had the pleasure of being Mel's inspector on the dog section for eight-and-a-half years, and I saw her go on to detect many crimes and catch offenders through great use of the dog-handling skills she went on to develop.

"Mel later qualified as a specialist drugs search dog handler and had some fantastic

operational drugs and cash finds in this arena. She was a popular and friendly member of the team and she will be greatly missed by her dog section peers and wider police family colleagues.

"Our thoughts go to her husband Kevin, son Tony and daughter Sam and her four grandchildren at this very difficult time."

## Sensory rooms opened in Bridgend town centre



**AMANDA** and Ed Kirk, directors of the Mulligan Community, were delighted to officially open the first sensory rooms in Bridgend town centre on March 6 at the Mulligan Community Hub on Caroline Street.

The opening ceremony said a spokesperson, was carried out by former-First Minister Carwyn Jones AM along with the Mayor of Bridgend County Borough, Cllr John McCarthy and his consort, Judy McCarthy.

Also present were Gary Pesticio, managing director of Bridgend Ford, JJ Williams, and Jeremy Evans, headteacher of Heronsbridge School.

"The sensory rooms," continued the spokesperson, "augment the range of

facilities available to local people. "The rooms are available to anyone who wishes to book them and are a unique facility for visitors to the town centre."

The rooms are designed to help develop senses through lighting, music, different objects and textures.

Commenting on the sensory rooms, Cllr McCarthy said: "What a wonderful facility; a much-needed resource in Bridgend and the surrounding area."

The sensory rooms are open Monday to Saturday between 9.30am and 4pm and anyone considering using the facilities is welcome to call in at the MC Hub.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

*At the opening of the sensory rooms are Amanda and Ed Mulligan, Carwyn Jones AM, Mayor of Bridgend County Borough Cllr John McCarthy and his consort Judy McCarthy, Gary Pesticio and JJ Williams with members of staff and visitors.*



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# Chloe is the star in Rotary Junior Youth Speaks competition



ON March 13, the annual Rotary Junior Youth Speaks competition was hosted by Coychurch Primary School.

The competition, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Bridgend, gives young people an opportunity to carry out research on a subject of their choice, formulate ideas, and improve their self-confidence and presentation skills by speaking on a public platform.

It was another exciting and illuminating evening with the competitors offering a wide range of topics for discussion. Teachers, parents, grandparents and friends as well as members of the Rotary Club of Bridgend were there to support their speakers.

The schools taking part included Croesty, Tremains, Coychurch, Tondur and Litchard primary schools.

A diverse range of topics were presented including 'What puts the great in Great Britain?', 'The Tudors', 'Are the best things in life really free?', 'Banksy: Art or Graffiti?', 'What makes Wales wonderful?'. The audience was treated to some very interesting and entertaining points of view and showed its appreciation of the speakers. The most difficult task went to the



*Chloe Roblin from Tondur Primary receives the shield from Rotary president Hopkin Joseph.*

adjudicators who had to select a winner on the evening.

The adjudicators praised the quality of all of the speakers and applauded their presentations. The winner of the Youth Speaks Rotary Shield was Chloe Roblin from Tremains Primary School whose chosen topic was 'What puts the great in Great Britain?'. The adjudicators commended her presentation as articulate and confident and for the way she engaged her audience. Congratulations to her!

The Rotary Club of Bridgend would like to thank all the schools and students who took part. It was a wonderful evening. We would also like to

thank the governors and headteacher, Mrs Hurry, of Coychurch Primary school for hosting the competition.

Rotary is a fellowship organisation of 1.2 million passionate individuals in 35,000+ clubs worldwide and encourages and fosters the application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business and community life. If you are interested in joining or wish to find more about Rotary contact [www.rotary-bridgend.org.uk](http://www.rotary-bridgend.org.uk) or the secretary of the Rotary Club of Bridgend on 01656 660648.

Gill Hale

## Richard takes the prize at photo portfolio competition



**PYLE & Porthcawl Photographic Society** recently held the 2019 **Malcolm Nugent Portfolio competition**.

Each member could enter a set of four prints or digital images into the competition; one from each of the following genres: Abstract or Still Life, Landscape, Nature and People, with 17 members entering.

Dennis Russ from Swansea skillfully judged the competition, and not only awarded the points, but also provided an excellent critique on each of the 68 entries.

Congratulations to Richard Craze who was the overall winner with four excellent prints scoring a maximum of 80 points.

We're a very friendly camera club with a mix of male and female members and welcome new members of all ages and skill levels, it's all very informal. So if you have an interest in photography, why not come along and join us on Thursday evenings at 7:30pm at St Clare's School, Newton CF36 5NR.

Our programme is available at [www.pyle-porthcawl-ps.co.uk](http://www.pyle-porthcawl-ps.co.uk).

Geoff Baker

## READERS' LETTERS

### 'Does Welsh Labour underestimate the intelligence of electorate?'

**I**N 2016 the residents of the UK were given a democratic vote on whether to stay in Europe, or leave and stop being governed by bureaucrats in Brussels.

As the general public knows, the outcome of the referendum was to leave. It appears Welsh Labour cannot understand the meaning of leave, or does not believe its constituents have the ability to make a choice of their own.

As I have stated in the past, Madeleine Moon MP for Bridgend has, from as soon as the result was

announced, appeared to try and put obstacles in the way of Brexit and the wishes of her own constituents. Don't forget Bridgend voted to leave as well as the majority of Wales.

The ex-First Minister Carwyn Jones from Bridgend is supporting another referendum as are Vaughan Gething, Health Minister and Eluned Morgan, International Relations Minister.

So there we have it, Labour Party members in Wales totally against what the majority of their constituents voted for.

Democratic Labour? I don't think so.

L Roberts, Bridgend.

### 'Too many dog mess bags are left on the beach'

**D**OG walkers currently enjoy unrestricted access to Newton Beach all year round.

But with that surely has to come a degree of responsibility? I am unsure that I can possibly choose which is worse.

Those dog walkers who completely fail to clear up their animal's mess after them, or those who bag it up,

only to leave it either for the tide in the (misplaced) expectation that the tide will clear it up for them, or to fling it into a tree or the scrub?

If dog walkers are incapable of clearing up properly after their dogs then the council surely has to consider whether they should continue to enjoy this unrestricted access.

Martyn Thomas, Porthcawl

## Where Macmillan cancer donations went in Bridgend

**I**AM writing to let our readers know that last year, Macmillan Cancer Support awarded around £58,000 in grants to people with cancer in financial hardship in Bridgend county borough thanks to the public's donations.

Around £33,000 in Macmillan grants helped people with cancer in Bridgend pay for heating or clothing, as having cancer can mean you feel the cold more or may be spending more time at home between treatments.

Approximately £4,500 was given to people with cancer who were struggling to cover the cost of travelling to and from their appointments with costs that could not

be reclaimed through their hospital.

The grants also covered the costs of other essentials to help manage the impact of their cancer, such as beds, chairs, kitchen appliances and washing machines.

Four in five people living with cancer experience a financial impact. The average is £570 a month. Macmillan offers grants to people with cancer who are

struggling financially, have a limited income or savings.

To find out about the financial help Macmillan offers, call the Macmillan Support Line free on 0800 808 0000 or visit [macmillan.org.uk/moneyworries](http://macmillan.org.uk/moneyworries).

**Richard Pugh,**  
Head of Services (Wales),  
Macmillan Cancer Support.

### HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL MARCH 28)

*The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.*

*For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20-25 minutes later.*

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
21 Thur	06.41	10.6	18.59	10.7
22 Fri	07.23	10.8	19.46	10.8
23 Sat	07.59	10.7	20.26	10.6
24 Sun	08.45	10.5	20.59	10.2
25 Mon	09.22	10.0	21.42	9.6
26 Tues	09.59	9.3	22.22	8.9
27 Wed	10.42	8.5	22.59	8.2
28 Thurs	11.32	7.8	23.59	7.6

*While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.*

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# Fears over hostel facilities

**FEARS** have been raised that facilities in a hostel for homeless families in Bridgend are so bad that they could be causing children to regress in certain skills.

Bridgend County Borough Councillor Carolyn Webster says she has huge concerns over Brynmelyn Hostel. Speaking at a council meeting on the local authority's draft homelessness strategy, the Newcastle ward councillor said: "67 per cent of homeless households are placed in some form of temporary accommodation, with local authority-owned hostel accommodation the most common type."

"I have visited the family hostel and I have huge concerns regarding the possible regression of childhood-learned skills such as toileting and washing, as the bathrooms are shared facilities."

"I certainly would not be happy about a three-year old using shared facilities without access to a bath – there's a shower but babies don't need showers, they need baths."

"There is insufficient eating space in a lot of the shared kitchens, so sometimes families can't eat around the table and they're left eating on their beds. There are also insufficient communal living areas."

The council's head of performance and partnership Martin Morgans agreed, telling Cllr Webster: "You're spot on in terms of the facilities there, it's not acceptable. We are currently going through an options appraisal in terms of that hostel so we have a road map of providing a better facility."

"At the moment it's not appropriate

but it's the only asset we've got in terms of supporting families. The support network in there is really positive in terms of what The Wallich deliver, but as a building it's not right."

He said the council was looking at what it could do to provide a more family-friendly environment.

Interim chief executive Mark Shephard added: "We absolutely recognise it's not suitable currently but we need to manage what we do within certain financial parameters. We are hoping to complete that options appraisal within the next few months."

Cabinet member for wellbeing and future generations Dhanisha Patel said: "About a year ago this committee discussed options to do with Brynmelyn in terms of relocation or redevelopment. We are currently prioritising the place we already own."

"Part of the extra care provision has meant we have come out of residential properties and we have options available in using the land we already have. However, if the cost is too much we would need to look at securing land elsewhere; there is a team looking at it."

Cllr Norah Clarke of the Independent Alliance said expediency was "really, really necessary". She said: "None of us would want our families to live in those conditions, I really don't think it's fair."

Brynmelyn Hostel is an old converted council office. It is owned by Bridgend Council and managed by the homeless charity The Wallich.

The overview and scrutiny committee meeting took place on March 18.

**Liz Bradfield, Local Democracy Reporter**

# Choir is featured in local history day in Bridgend

**THERE** are always plenty of things to do at half term; but this month, something different took place at Carnegie House, Bridgend.

Nearly 400 visitors came along to a photographic exhibition led by Natalie Murphy, the president of Bridgend and District Local History Society, together with Cor Bro Ogwr.

The choir was invited to display its own history, from its beginnings in 1998 after a successful Eisteddfod in Bridgend, when John Elfed Jones and Alun John wondered what could be done to leave a legacy from that Eisteddfod.

Choristers were asked for memorabilia and photos, which poured into the busy hands of committee members Ann and Jeff Heatley.

Photos from concerts, events and trips abroad, concert programmes and press releases were displayed to the accompaniment of CDs and DVDs of some of our memorable concerts and trips.

Our president, Carwyn Jones AM, opened the



Cor Bro Ogwr choristers at the event.

exhibition, which ran from Tuesday 27 to Saturday, March 2. Our chorister uniform was also on display, worn by the Heatleys and Morgan.

Not only the visitors but some of our newer choristers were really surprised to see the range and number of concerts the choir had performed. Also evident was the fun and pleasure we have experienced during trips away, social and fund raising events.

Sharing the venue with the Local History Society gave us the opportunity to bring the choir to the attention

of many local people and we are grateful to Natalie Murphy who suggested this.

There was also a table set up with a Macmillan collection box, in memory of the late Mike Stokes, a stalwart of the historical society who, with his family, did so much for Bridgend town.

Mike passed away in 2017 and it was deemed appropriate that the collection box total of £117.45 should be given to Macmillan Cancer Support in his honour.

It was a lot of hard work, and credit for this goes to the Heatleys who were the masterminds, and Erith and Iorwerth

Morgan, who assisted with the displays and were present for the duration. Thanks also go to the daily volunteers.

For information on our next concert (April 27), go to [www.cor-bro-ogwr.org](http://www.cor-bro-ogwr.org) and FaceBook.

**Dominique Spearay**

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## LOCAL VALE LAW FIRM WINS TOP UK AWARD 'SUCCESS STARTS WITH A GREAT TEAM'



### Catherine Hartland & Alexandra Jenkins

Local Barry Law firm attended the prestigious Modern Law Awards in Manchester on Thursday 31 January 2019 and were the only law firm from Wales to reach the finals, the only law firm to be finalists in more than 2 awards, and the only law firm to come away with three awards.



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## 'Don't skip school, but change habits to help environment' says Newcastle councillor

**ON March 15 across the world, children were 'striking for climate action'.**

They missed school to protest about a lack of action on the climate from international politicians. Here in the UK, under the Conservative Westminster Government, the UK has reduced our emissions more, while growing our economy at a faster rate than any other major economy.

Last year, we generated a record amount of our power from renewable resources. The Conservative government has set a net zero emissions target so we are no longer adding harmful emissions to the climate. This will require change from ways in which our energy is generated, how we build our homes to how we farm.

Working together, in whatever way we

can, we can make a difference.

Cllr Carolyn Webster, Conservative Councillor for Newcastle ward called on children across Bridgend county to take action on climate change by deeds, not words.

Cllr Webster said: "I hear from so many people in our communities who observe that parents taking or collecting their children to school leave engines idling outside schools while waiting for their children. While walking or cycling to and from school is the most environmentally sound method, I appreciate that many parents need to drive for the school run so they can get to work. If children and schools could encourage parents to stop idling, it could prove to be key to local, effective action on air quality - making a small change which can make a big difference."

CW

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Porthcawl Mayor Norah Clarke with Maddy Hill (Ruby Spark) and Diane Botcher (Jan Jennings) during the recent filming.

## 'Casualty' in Porthcawl

**THE popular BBC series Casualty came to Porthcawl on Monday and Tuesday last week.**

Scores of onlookers gathered to see various scenes shot around the harbour

and it was a great opportunity to see what goes on behind the scenes.

The crowd was joined by Porthcawl Mayor Cllr Norah Clarke, a Casualty fan, who was delighted to have a photo taken with two of the paramedics from the series.

## Soroptimists enjoy a fashion show

**ON March 13 Bridgend Soroptimist Club held a Spring Fashion Show at the Heronston Hotel. Samantha B, who has her boutique in Ewenny supplied a superb array of this year's spring/summer fashions and Soroptimist members took to the catwalk modelling a varied assortment of garments ranging from casual through to occasion wear.**

Every likely event in ladies' diaries for 2019 was well catered for. The evening was a sell out within days of tickets becoming available and

included a welcome glass of fizz, together with a raffle of prizes very generously donated by the members.

The evening raised in excess of £1,100 with some donations yet to come in, and all proceeds will be divided equally between Ty Hafan Children's Hospice and Chorachori, which is the Soroptimist Federation's current charity project helping young girls in Nepal who are at risk of abuse and trafficking.

More information about Soroptimist International and the Bridgend Club can be found at [sigbi.org/bridgend-and-district.com](http://sigbi.org/bridgend-and-district.com).

Eileen Bayley

## WI members 'coast' through craft session

**THE March winds and rain failed to deter members of Southerndown WI, and more than 40 attended their recent meeting.**

Our president, Lyn, welcomed everyone including four new members and encouraged us to complete a voting slip for trustees of the NFWI Board.

Lyn then pointed out information in the monthly newsletter before Chris, our events organiser, gave information on forthcoming events. Chris then suggested some future events for our consideration, including a theatre trip and a guided tour of the BBC in Cardiff.

Sally then took over to guide us through a craft session. Sally is skilled at working with glass and she showed us some of the items she has made, including clocks, ornaments, plates and pictures.

She explained some of the processes used to create different effects and how molten glass will spread out to a thickness of 6mm. Care must be taken

because mixing different types of glass can cause fractures and cracks.

For the craft session Sally had prepared, for each member, a bag containing small pieces of coloured glass and a coaster-size square of clear glass. Our task was to arrange the pieces on the clear glass in a pattern or a picture, sticking them in place when satisfied with our efforts. She collected the completed 'coasters' to take home for firing in her kiln. We're looking forward to the next meeting when they will be returned and we can compare our efforts!

It was great fun and we all appreciated the work Sally had done prior to the session.

It's a busy month for Sally as she is also joining Linda to host our coffee morning on March 28 from 10.30am at her home in Ogmore-by-Sea. Our next meeting is on Thursday, April 11 at 7pm - note the earlier start time - in the church hall on Southerndown Road, St Brides Major. Why not join us?

PM

## One day music festival to be held in Porthcawl

A MUSIC festival, 'The Oceans Festival of Original Music', will take place in Porthcawl on June 29, at the Hi-Tide Inn, from 1pm until

11pm.

In what organisers hope will become an annual event, 18 local bands will be playing half-hour sets, and performers lined up include Rebecca Hurn, Evil Turkeys, Ed

## ABMU video guides help families develop healthy habits

**NEW mums and dads are being offered support to make lifestyle changes that will help their children maintain a healthy weight for life.**

ABMU Health Board, with funding from the ABM Local Public Health Team, has produced four videos which encourage new parents to adopt healthy habits and access local support for themselves and their new arrivals.

Developed by the public health team, midwives, health visitors and dietitians, the videos support the 'Ten Steps to a Healthy Weight' campaign, which highlights 10 activities that can help parents bring up happy and healthy children.

Advice for parents includes being a healthy weight before starting a family, avoiding gaining too much weight during pregnancy and breastfeeding their baby.

Other tips include offering fruit and vegetables every day, making sure their children sleep well and only offering milk and water as drinks.

Judith Tomlinson, public health consultant with ABMU, highlighted the benefits of adopting a healthy lifestyle. She said: "Obesity is a major public health concern. There are many benefits to being a healthy weight, which include reducing your risk of coronary heart disease, stroke,

diabetes and some cancers."

The videos, available in English and Welsh, are Aqua Fit (swimming and other exercises in water for pregnant women), Buggy Fit (walking and talking groups for parents), Breastfeeding (tips and tools to encourage mums to keep breastfeeding) and Weaning (ideas for introducing solid foods).

Buggy Fit groups are open to everyone - mums, dads, grandparents and childminders are all welcome. They are held in various locations and health visitors can give details on groups in their area.

Jo Edwards, a Flying Start health visitor, said: "We are here sun, wind and rain, we go on regardless, plus it is free of charge!"

One mother who enjoyed the group said: "The best thing about coming to this group is meeting new friends, coming down the beach and getting fit."

In another video, Clare Shears, infant feeding coordinator, said: "Parents find introducing solid foods a really exciting time and a big step in a child's growth, but it can also be challenging and confusing too."

"Health visitors in your area can help to check if your child is ready and to decide what foods might be good to try first."

The videos are available on ABMU's YouTube channel. Go.

## WI are impressed with Sylvia's decorated eggs

**MYNYDD Cynffig WI met in the Talbot Center, Kenfig Hill, on March 12 at the usual time (2pm to 4.30pm).**

There was a good turn out of members. The meeting was chaired by Christine and we discussed where and when we are going on our spring trip, with our summer and autumn trips yet to be organised. The summer show by Federation House was discussed and our craft section will be submitting an entry for one of the classes.

Our speaker this month was Sylvia Bird, and her topic was decorated eggs and jewellery. The eggs she

showed us were amazing, ostrich, emu, geese and chicken. Any egg can be used except swans, as they belong to the queen. They would have given Faberge a run for their money.

The jewellery was equally good, and the examples she showed were of every colour and texture you could imagine. Several of the members purchased necklaces and eggs. All agreed she was a very talented lady.

Our speaker next month is Emlyn Williams, whose topic is 'UFOs in Swansea' which should be interesting.

CC

## Sensory Rooms opened at Hub

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

In addition to a Community Food Shop and Sensory Rooms, the MC Hub provides: Counselling/Advice Room sponsored by Specsavers; Family Contact Room; Community Training

Room; free weekly depression and anxiety support groups; free baby equipment lending scheme; free clothes shop, including free school uniforms and free community training courses.

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# Local prisoners show their support for homelessness charity Emmaus



Staff from G4S and Emmaus South Wales with the cheque presented to the charity.

**PRISONERS** at HMP Parc in Bridgend have chosen to support Emmaus South Wales through the proceeds of a recent bicycle raffle and G4S match-it scheme.

Phil Forder, community engagement officer at HMP Parc said: "When we raffled two refurbished bikes at HMP Parc before Christmas, the prisoners raised over £200, which was doubled by G4S match-it. The prisoners decided to split the money between Emmaus South Wales and Ty Hafan."

G4S also donated 15 refurbished bicycles to the Emmaus South Wales Community, thanks to a new prison scheme. The scheme uses abandoned, damaged or stolen bikes donated by

South Wales Police and the prisoners are taught bicycle maintenance and restore the bikes to pristine condition. The bikes are then re-donated back to community projects like Emmaus.

An Emmaus South Wales spokesperson said: "Emmaus South Wales would like to thank G4S and the prisoners who donated towards this fundraising effort for supporting our cause. It's brilliant to see such great initiatives and training opportunities in place, which ultimately assists with rehabilitation back into the community."

The sum of £251.50 donated by the prison will assist Emmaus South Wales' work in supporting people facing homelessness in the Bridgend and south Wales area.

# How Iron Works changed the world

**THE speaker at the recent meeting of Bridgend and District Local History Society was Peter Richards from the 'Friends of the Neath Abbey Iron Company', who gave a talk on the development of the Iron Works in the Clydach Valley, from its beginnings in 1785 to its closure in 1880.**

In 1792 Richard Parsons, who operated a blast furnace and a forge at Cwm-y-Felin, leased the property to George Croker Fox of Falmouth and associates, two of whom subsequently were Peter Price and Samuel Tregelles.

With his foundry and engineering expertise Price was able to develop the Neath Abbey ironworks from a bulk pig-iron producer to a precision engineering establishment.

Being Quakers they were, unlike most iron works, not involved in the production of cannon.

Instead, Neath Abbey Iron Company were producers of engines, cylinders and other parts for Cornish pumping engines, blowing engines, marine engines, iron hulled ships,

locomotives, rails and chairs, rolling mills, machine tools, gas plant, and a great variety of iron castings and forgings.

Locomotives were manufactured which were improvements on those produced by Stephenson and one of these was the *Industry*, a model of which can be seen at the National Waterfront Museum in Swansea.

Venturing into marine steam engines led the company into building iron steamships on the Clydach including the 1,000 ton *EllenBate* which was the first iron ship built in Wales.

This important site is looked after by the 'Friends' and can be visited on open days where members were available to explain all to visitors.

The two large blast furnaces are still evident, as are the workshops and, thanks to volunteers, trees and undergrowth have been cleared to make the site accessible. An archaeological dig will be taking place at the site in April.

The next meeting of the society takes place on April 10 at 7pm in Carnegie House where following the AGM, there will be three short talks given by members.

IH

# ITV weather presenter visits Porthcawl NCI



Nick Weedon (left), Ruth Wignall and Phil Styles.

**AS Storm Freya was followed rapidly by Storm Gareth, it meant that photographers were out in force to take their own shots of waves breaking over the Porthcawl harbour light.**

Often featured in these photos is the Porthcawl NCI Watchtower, a good vantage point on a day when the waves

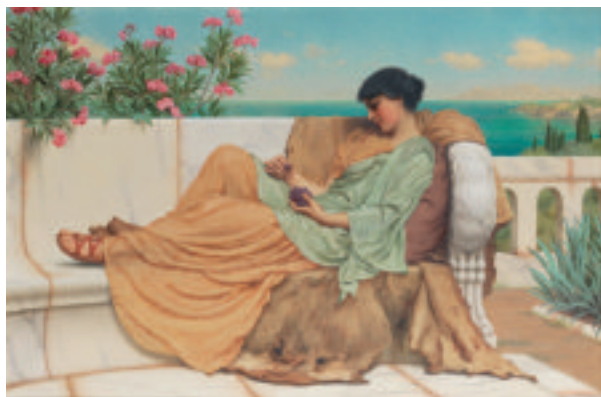
are crashing against the breakwater. So, it was no surprise that Ruth Wignall from ITV Weather came along to the tower on Wednesday, March 13, to present a live weather broadcast on the 6pm news.

She spoke to volunteers who scan the seas on behalf of the National Coastwatch Institution (NCI), including Nick Weedon and station manager Phil Styles.

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# Cragen: Wales' legendary sea monster celebrates Clean Seas Wales campaign

**CRAGEN** the sea monster will appear in Porthcawl's Harbour Quarter on April 16 at a special event organised by SeaQuest, celebrating the Clean Seas Wales campaign to turn the tide on plastic, with the support of Awen Cultural Trust and Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC).

Cragen first appeared last year during Visit Wales' Year of the Sea when she toured Wales.

Small World Theatre's giant sea-faring puppet is predicted to appear at Porthcawl with an important clean seas message at 4pm on April 16 when spectators will be amazed by her size (20m long) as she



*Cragen the sea monster will appear in Porthcawl soon.*

returns unwanted plastic waste from the sea to the land.

SeaQuest is planning an afternoon of family activities from 1pm before the performance, with stalls and activities for children during the Easter holiday.

SeaQuest's team is passionate about delivering Family Beach Discovery sessions and finding ways for families to discover their awesome coast.

Anne Davidson, SeaQuest leader, said: "We are delighted to have Cragen join us in Porthcawl. The giant creature made from waste plastic and repurposed materials is

an inspiration to us all to care for our environment, keep our beaches clean of litter and look after our coastal wildlife".

Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport, Lord Elis-Thomas said: "The Welsh Government is delighted that we've been able to support this innovative project."

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# Brynteg Comprehensive School takes its eisteddfod to Porthcawl



*Bard.*



*Brynteg daffodil.*

**DANCING and drama, hymns and arias; there was something for everyone to enjoy during Brynteg's annual eisteddfod, held for the first time at The Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl.**

A school spokesperson said: "The exciting atmosphere combined with the vibrant team colours made the event extremely special and has already inspired further students to take part next year."

"Cestyll Coety, Newydd, Ewenni and Ogwr all battled fiercely to become the overall eisteddfod winner under the watchful eyes of their team captains and leaders."

"It was a thrilling competition to the end, with Ogwr really making it difficult for the other teams. However, it was Castell Newydd who were crowned the winners after their superb team choir performance - Llonyfarchiadau Castell Newydd."

"Students were able to demonstrate a broad range of talents by competing off and on stage, with the new arrangements allowing all Key Stage 3 to come together as one. They were encouraged to take part in various ways, sometimes working across year groups. The collaboration between the year groups was truly inspiring, especially for the younger and sometimes nervous students."

"Even though it was scary performing in front of people, we had fun and that's all that matters. It was a great eisteddfod," said Layla, one of the pupils.

The traditional churning ceremony 'Seremoni Cadeirio' was a particularly proud moment with Archdruid Mr Tyler announcing the 2019 Bardd as Jude Williamson - da iawn Jude!

The students' behaviour was impeccable,



*Brynteg singers*

and the school is very proud of how respectful and enthusiastic they all were.

The team choirs' renditions of Calon Lân certainly raised the roof.

A special mention must go to Mr Tyler and his squad who cycled 175K on February 21 in aid of the eisteddfod - ymdrech arbennig o dda!

Diolch yn fawr iawn to Miss C Davies for co-ordinating such a successful event with the support of Yr Adran Gymraeg and all the Brynteg staff.

However, the biggest thank you must be saved for the wonderfully talented and delightful students for making the day rhagorol - outstanding.

**Ein enillwyr ni (our winners):**

Unawd Offerynnol (Instrumental Solo): Grace Thompson Bl.8; Grŵp Llefaru Cymraeg (Welsh Group Recitation): 7R Ewenni. Llefaru Unigol (Welsh Solo Recitation): Georgia Newman-Philips. Bl.7; Parti Unsain (Welsh Vocal): 7y; Perfformiad Lleislo (Vocal Performance): Lucy John and Ffion Hogan. Grŵp Llefaru Saesneg Bl.8 (Year 8 English Group Recitation): Bethan Lord, Alys Griffiths, Niamh Delaney, Maisie Davies and Shamma Tullloch; Unawd Piano (Piano Solo): Francesca Day Bl.8;

Grŵp Llefaru Saesneg Bl.7 (Year 7 English Group Recitation): Carys Peters, Summer Griffiths, Katie Blower, Cleo Birt, Daisy Williams and Ffion Morgan Bl.7; Dawnsio Gwerin (Folk dance): Ffion Howe, Summer Griffiths, Katie Griffin, Katie Blower, Cleo Birt, Charlotte Coss and Katelyn Crocombe, Bl.7; Seremoni Cadeirio (Churning Ceremony): Jude Williamson Bl. 8; Cyflwyniad Dramatig (Drama Sketch): Lucy John, Aditi Bohr and Ffion Hogan. Grŵp (Group Dance): Aditi Bohr, Dorina Losonci, Katelyn Crocombe, Summer Griffiths, Sophie West, Katie Blower, Ffion Howe and Charlotte Coss, Bl.7 and 9; Siarad Cyhoeddus (Public Speaking): Ella Coates Bl.9; Cystadleuaeth Talent (Wales has got Talent): Emma Davies Bl.9.

*Llonyfarchiadau i chi i gyd!*

## Peter Francis

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# Emmaus celebrates six years in Porthcawl

**THE Emmaus South Wales charity shop on New Road in Porthcawl celebrated its sixth birthday on St David's Day.**

To mark being part of the Porthcawl community since 2013, the shop was adorned with bunting, balloons and, of course, a Welsh flag. There were also refreshments and cakes available for customers to enjoy.

Michelle, deputy shop manager, said: "March 1 is a special day at Emmaus Porthcawl, as it's our birthday! This year, alongside new and regular customers, volunteers and companions, we celebrated being open for six years. We are very grateful to our volunteers, who have also become our friends. Thank you to all our customers and local community for their continued support."

The Emmaus South Wales shop in Porthcawl sells a range of new and secondhand items, with everything from golf clubs and clothes to beds for sale at the shop.

Emmaus South Wales would like to thank The Co-op in Porthcawl for their donation of cakes for the occasion and the Porthcawl community for their support over the past six years.

If you would like to support Emmaus, you can donate your quality unwanted items to any of their seven shops, or for larger items, arrange a free collection.

Emmaus South Wales is a homelessness charity based in Bridgend that offers a home and meaningful work opportunities for people facing homelessness. Their seven shops throughout south Wales not only provide the funds to support their community home in Cefn Glas, but also provide valuable work opportunities for companions (as the formerly homeless individuals the charity supports are known).

Want to know more about Emmaus South Wales? Visit their website [www.emmaus-southwales.org.uk](http://www.emmaus-southwales.org.uk)



The Porthcawl shop recently celebrated its sixth birthday in style!

## Townswomen's Guild news

**THE members of Porthcawl Townswomen's Guild have been busy since my last report.**

Many went to the Federation AGM in Cardiff and enjoyed a good buffet lunch and a speaker, Debra John. But unfortunately the Federation will have to close at the end of May. All the guilds will continue however, so don't worry!

Eating out is always popular and our monthly lunch was a new place for us – the cafeteria at the Pyle Garden Village. We will go there again.

An outing to Llancaich Fawr Manor proved very interesting as many improvements had been made. One member, Maureen girded herself in armour and Dee's grandson also dressed up!

Our meeting this month began yet again on a sad note as members stood

in memory of Peggy Vince who had lost her long battle with cancer. Peggy, with her sister Gwen had been members for 30 years contributing greatly to the life of the guild and Peggy will be much missed.

Our ever welcome speaker was Ceri Joseph, who entertained us right royally with the history of our local castles and the battles of the kings and princes around them. Ceri showed an amusing cartoon in the form of the Bayeux Tapestry depicting the Battle of Hastings. As usual she had us in fits of laughter and we all wished she had been our history teacher in school!

Our next meeting is on May 9 at 2pm at All Saints' Church hall when the Rev Clive Williams will entertain us. Do come and join our lively group – you will not be disappointed.

**Dorothy Thomas**

## BCBC mulls changes to council meetings to 'engage with community'

**BRIDGEND County Borough Council (BCBC) is looking into holding evening meetings outside the civic offices and in different communities to try to engage more people in the scrutiny process.**

Currently, the local authority's meetings are held during the day at the civic offices in Bridgend.

At a democratic services committee meeting on March 14, councillors said they were keen to see more meetings held in the evening not only for local residents, but also for working councillors.

Cllr Bridie Sedgebeer said: "We seem to be one of the very few councils in Wales that have meetings in the day. Having meetings at 10am, 2pm or 4pm doesn't suit me, my working day is affected. It seems we are working in a very backward way. I hardly come to this meeting because it's very hard for

me to attend."

Cllr Alex Williams said the council needed to accommodate the number of councillors with working commitments, rather than just those who were retired and preferred attending meetings in the morning.

Cllr Gary Thomas said that evening meetings within the civic offices did not take place because of having to pay staff and officers time-and-a-half after 6.45pm, and the council did not have the money to fund this.

Cllr Sedgebeer suggested talking to the trade unions to see if the terms and conditions of staff could be changed.

As part of a scrutiny review, officers said the council was looking at holding evening meetings in different community areas of the county to increase awareness and engagement of scrutiny among the public.

**Liz Bradfield**  
Local democracy reporter

## Free sanitary products

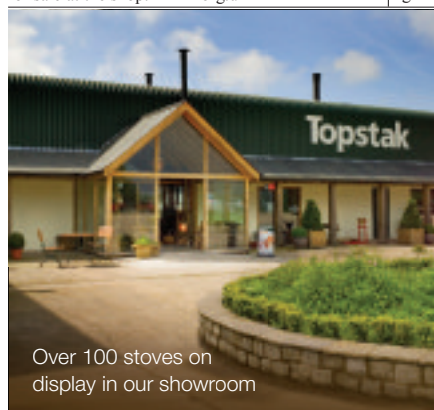
**FOLLOWING an announcement from the Welsh Labour Government, free sanitary products will now be available to all women in Welsh hospitals. This is in addition to the £1 million already committed to tackle 'period poverty' in schools and communities.**

Currently, the provision of sanitary products for hospital inpatients varies across Wales, as each health board has its own policy.

Ogmore AM Huw Irranca-Davies welcomed the news and said: "It is unacceptable for anyone not to be able to access sanitary items because they can't afford them, particularly while they are in hospital. Patients should expect to receive the best possible care in comfort and dignity."

"This further announcement from the Welsh Government will help towards seeing an end to period poverty and I hope these products will be available in our hospitals as soon as possible."

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# Hut 9 re-enactors help visitors go back in time



## Lego Man art appears as tribute to schoolgirl



Hollie Evans and the Lego Man graffiti created at Litchard Primary School in her honour.

**THE mysterious 'Lego Man' street artist has struck again in south Wales, this time with a tribute in support of a Bridgend school-girl's mission to raise awareness of Down Syndrome.**

Eleven-year-old Hollie Evans was stunned with the surprise graffiti which was daubed on a wall at Litchard Primary School last weekend by artist Ame72.

A Lego figure with a heart-shaped balloon has been painted on one of the school walls, while the secretive artist also left a personalised canvas, just for Hollie.

Work by the international artist Ame72 – real name James Ame – has been valued in the thousands, with three of his creations recently appearing in Port Talbot to join the town's famous Banksy graffiti art.

On World Down Syndrome Day on March 21, Hollie will be starring in the 'Wouldn't Change a Thing' campaign video to make outdated perceptions of the genetic condition a thing of the past.

She also recently

joined other children with Down Syndrome and their families on the *This Morning* sofa with Philip Schofield and Holly Willoughby to talk about the campaign.

Understandably, her mother Hayley is proud, and said: "Hollie is a true little star."

"I contacted Ame72 via social media to tell him a little bit about Hollie and how amazing her school have been, getting behind Hollie in everything she does."

He replied to say that he felt inspired to do something, and I was over the moon when I saw his artwork. Hollie loves it!

"It's Hollie's last year at Litchard Primary, and the kindness shown by everyone at the school has definitely left its mark on Hollie so it will be an emotional day when she leaves."

"It's lovely to think that this artwork will remain at the school as a fantastic legacy of her time there."

As well as helping to raise awareness of how people with Down Syndrome play a vital role in our communities, Hollie also does wonders for charity.

When she was younger, Hollie had cancer, so when she was

given the all-clear in 2014 she and her family were determined to do something for other cancer sufferers.

Hollie had 18 inches of her hair cut and donated the money that she raised to the Little Princess Trust.

For the past few years Hollie and her sister Poppie have collected hundreds of easter eggs which they donate to children at the Princess of Wales Hospital and the Noah's Ark Children's Hospital for Wales, where Hollie spent six months having chemotherapy.

As well as having a unique piece of artwork created for her, Hollie's kindness will also be recognised by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) when she receives a Mayor's Citizenship Award tomorrow (March 22).

Hollie will join a dozen other locals who are being rewarded for their contributions to the local community.

AS

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by GLYN EVANS

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**OPEN days at the Hut 9 prison camp, at Island farm, Bridgend, continue to be popular, with visitors, as usual, needing to book tickets well in advance.**

The most recent day attracted plenty of praise from visitors for the efforts of the re-enactors, who all go the extra mile to explain how different life was in the days of World War Two.

The next open weekend is scheduled for Saturday, August 31, and Sunday, September 1.







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*Pearl the toy poodle.*

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Pearl likes to have her own space, so she is best suited as the only dog in the home. With time and patience, Pearl will flourish in a home with owners who can help build up her trust and confidence.

To find out more about Pearl, contact Dogs Trust Bridgend on 01656 725219; or visit the rehoming centre in Bridgend, CF31 4NG. You can also visit the website at [www.dogstrust.org.uk](http://www.dogstrust.org.uk).

## Barry is a property hot spot

**BARRY** has hit the heights after a property website calculated that house prices have risen more in the town than any other area in the UK.

Rightmove found the average property price in Barry rose by 10.6 per cent annually.

It said the average asking price had jumped by more than a fifth in the past five years and is now £191,050.

"It's great to see Barry

named as the country's hottest property market right now," said Miles Shipside, Rightmove's property expert.

"It's a great tourist spot thanks to the popularity of Gavin & Stacey, and not forgetting Barry also boasts some quite stunning coastal views."

"Barry is the place to be so I'm not at all surprised by Rightmove's findings," said Andrew Fenton, sales director at Chris Davies estate agents in the Vale.

## Ysgol Bro team takes the prize in national public speaking contest



*The Ysgol Bro Morgannwg team with Elena Morgan (teacher), Rhys Griffiths, Sara Jones, Sir Norman Lloyd-Edwards, Morgan Bailey and Derek Morgan.*

TWO Welsh medium secondary schools produced the winning and runner-up teams at this year's Welsh national final of the English Speaking Union (ESU) Churchill Public Speaking competition for schools, which was held once again in the Debating Chamber of Ty Hywel, Cardiff Bay on March 5.

An ESU spokeswoman said: "We were delighted to welcome the chief executive of the Assembly, Manon Antoniazzi, who opened the event with warm words of welcome and encouragement to the students."

"The schools in the final were: Ysgol Gyfun Gwyr from Swansea; Y Pant Comprehensive School, Pontyclun; Ysgol Bro Morgannwg, Barry; St John's College, Cardiff; Whitmore High School, Barry, and Treorchy Comprehensive School."

"The topics discussed were varied and challenging and students had clearly carried out detailed research. Standards were high – perhaps better than ever before at this competition – and the winning team members from Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg in Barry have good reason to be proud of themselves."

The team was Sara Jones, Rhys Griffiths and Morgan Bailey and their chosen subject, "What does it mean to live in a world where Donald Trump is President of the USA?", was effectively addressed and made the audience think about some of the reasons why the American people had voted as they did.

Sir Norman Lloyd-Edwards, president of the south Wales branch of the ESU, presented the team with the Fairwood Shield.

Certificates to mark their participation were presented to all the competitors by Derek



*The Y Pant Comprehensive team: Tom Evans, Amelie Donovan-Davies, Evie Morgan, and Mia Jones (teacher).*



*The team from Whitmore High School, Barry at ESU competition Luke Beecham, Ms S Morgan (teacher), Ryan Ellis and Thomas Froud.*

Morgan, chair of the ESU south Wales branch. The team from Ysgol Gyfun Gwyr were the runners-up and were particularly delighted as they had not entered the competition before, and their team was made up of year-9 students – somewhat younger than most others involved.

Prizes were also presented to Sara Jones as the best chairperson, to Elena Ruddy as the best speaker and to Jack Aldridge as the best questioner by Lady Susan Inkin, outgoing vice-chair of the branch. The spokeswoman added: "The winning team now goes on to represent Wales at the

UK Final at Churchill College, Cambridge on April 27. A team from Ysgol Bro Morgannwg won the UK final in 2017 and we hope that this year's team can repeat their success, flying the flag for Wales again in 2019.

"The ESU's goal is to help young people 'find their voice', and to develop students' self-confidence. To do this, the local branch runs competitions and workshops for primary and secondary students, providing free training for students in the spring and summer terms, and to the timekeeper, Victor Lloyd-Nesling."

"Members are most grateful to the deputy presiding officer, Ann Jones AM, for her sponsorship of the Public Speaking Competition final; to the Assembly for its support; to the schools that support the competition and to the teachers who give their time to coach their teams."

"They are also most grateful to the three judges – Bob Saul from London ESU, Delyth Hurlley and Katherine Kettle – who willingly gave their time and expertise, and to the timekeeper, Victor Lloyd-Nesling."

## TLC transforms stray cat into 'Princess Mushka'



*Princess Mushka.*

**STRAY** cat Mushka was a stray living outside in the cold and her fur was dirty and stained.

She had weeping sores on her shoulder, back and ear, probably from burns where she had sought shelter under a car bonnet.

But Mushka's luck finally changed when she was taken to Cats Protection's Bridgend Adoption Centre. "Mushka was very scared and shied away from our cat carers when she first arrived," said Cats Protection's Bridgend Adoption Centre manager Sue Dobbs.

"She received treatment for her injuries and we gave her lots of TLC. "After a couple of weeks, her sores had healed enough for her to have a bath to clean away some of the dirt."

"By this time, Mushka had gained in confidence and started to wrap her paws around all of our hearts. She's become a little love bug!"

Over the next few weeks, Mushka continued to recover, slowly but surely.

Her skin became very itchy during healing so she had to wear a buster collar – and a red jumper when she became fed up with the collar.

Eight weeks later, she has a sparkle back in her eyes and her fur is becoming shiny and white.

She has an entourage of cat carers waiting

to do her bidding and she is affectionately called Princess Mushka!

Sue said: "Mushka has come a long way from the sorry state she was in when she was first admitted into our care eight weeks ago."

"Her miraculous transformation from the poorly cat she was into the Princess Mushka we now know and love is a testimony to the hard work and commitment of the team at Cats Protection Bridgend."

"She continues to make steady improvement and hopefully will be available for adoption in the coming weeks."

"Mushka is one of many needy cats coming into our care every year, many of whom need urgent vet treatment and lots of TLC to give them a second chance in life; this wouldn't be possible without the generosity of kind cat lovers."

"If members of the public would like to donate to support our work, they can do so online at [www.justgiving.com/fundraise.../cats-protection-mushka](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraise.../cats-protection-mushka) or text BRID to 70577 to donate £5.00."

If you are interested in adopting Mushka or our other cats in need of homes, please contact the centre on 01656 724396 or email [bridgend@cats.org.uk](mailto:bridgend@cats.org.uk)

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## Flying high for charity with wing walk

**RIGHT:** Vicky Jones will raise awareness for the charity with her wing walk.



**LOCAL company Topstak will be sponsoring a charity wing walk to raise money for the Multiple Sclerosis Society.**

Vicky Jones from Gower was diagnosed with the disease six years ago and hopes to raise funds and awareness for the charity when she tackles her wing walk on April 25.

Vicky said: "Many people have heard of multiple sclerosis, but very few, unless directly affected by it, seem to know much about it. I was always busy – a 100 mph person, now I struggle to get up and dressed and the simplest of tasks takes me so long and tires me greatly.

"It often feels like I'm trying to climb a never ending sand dune, with my legs filled with concrete and pulling against a bungee cord; it's exhausting. As a result, I can only work part time. I

also suffer pain from the moment I wake up, to the moment I fall asleep."

Kath Foot, who runs the south Wales MS Society fundraising group added: "Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a neurological condition that affects the nerves. You get it when your immune system isn't working properly. Your immune system normally protects you by fighting off infection but in MS, it attacks your nerves by mistake. The symptoms are different in each person and it is a notoriously difficult disease to diagnose."

Adam Pedersen, director of family-run firm Topstak, said: "We are delighted to be able to support this worthwhile cause. It's very brave of Vicky to fundraise by doing a wing walk. Sponsorship means that all the money she raises can now go to the MS Society."



## Barry Island development site on show in Cannes

**THE Nell's Point development site at Barry Island was showcased at the largest property exhibition in the world in Cannes on March 12-15.**

The annual Marche International des Professionnels d'Immobilier (MIPIM) brings together thousands of investors, developers and other property professionals each year and is seen as an opportunity to attract international investment into the UK.

Nell's Point was promoted by the Department of International Trade (DIT) delegation at the conference as one of the best investment opportunities in Wales.

The council's regeneration and economic development teams

have worked closely with the DIT to ensure the full potential of Barry Island was on show.

Cllr Jonathan Bird, cabinet member for regeneration and planning, said: "There is now unstoppable momentum behind the regeneration of Barry. The transformation of the town is perhaps most evident at Barry Island and the nearby Waterfront.

"With such momentum behind our work, we felt the time was right to seek a higher calibre of investor for the Nell's Point site. We want to work with ambitious people with serious plans for the resort.

"The Department of International Trade clearly recognises the potential of Barry Island and the Nell's Point site. It is only one of a handful of Welsh locations in their prospectus."

A council spokesperson said:

"Further potential investment in the Vale will be sought by a delegation from the Cardiff City Region (CCR) who also showcased the recently launched Industrial and Economic Growth Plan at the event, as well as the Vale's Economic Prospectus, which also formed part of the CCR display.

"The plan is based on the region's strengths and maximises its opportunities. It highlights how south east Wales is primed for investment and as the gateway to both Wales and England, it occupies a strategic vantage point and is a key connectivity hub for investment and the flow of goods, technologies, people and ideas."

**MB**

## Doors open for new Vale cabinet members

**THE Leader of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Cllr John Thomas, has announced two changes to the cabinet.**

Cllr Ben Gray has replaced Cllr Gordon Kemp as Cabinet Member for Social Care, Health and Leisure while Cllr Kathryn McCaffery will take over from Cllr Geoff Cox as Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport.

Cllr Thomas said: "Social Care, Health and Leisure is an extremely important and challenging portfolio. The Vale's most vulnerable residents rely on our social care team and our leisure services improve the lives of thousands each week.

Currently chairman of the council's planning committee, Cllr Gray represents the Plymouth ward in Penarth.

The second change to the Cabinet sees Cllr McCaffery replace Cllr Cox as Cabinet member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport. Cllr Cox had previously decided to stand down from Cabinet to reduce

his workload and has now brought this decision forward as a result of a period of ill health, from which he is recovering.

Cllr Thomas said: "In Cllr McCaffery, the Cabinet has gained an exceptionally committed and hardworking councillor who will bring a new energy to a portfolio that includes

the Council's most visible services and those which touch the lives of the majority of residents every day."

Cllr McCaffery is currently chair of the Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee and also represents the Plymouth ward in Penarth.

**CS**

## Darcey is Barry's Miss Wales hopeful

**DARCEY Corria, who lives in Barry, is a finalist in Miss Wales 2019 in Newport on Saturday, April 13.**

The final takes place over three days with an 'Empowerment Day', an interview with the judging panel and a Miss Wales ball for finalists and their families, concluding with the grand final when the winner will be crowned Miss Wales and go on to represent her country at the Miss World event.

Darcey attended Barry Island Primary School where she was head girl. She also attended St Richard Gwyn High School in Barry and is now studying for her A-Levels at Bishop of Llandaff High School.

Darcey has learnt that pageants have come a long way over the years and are not just beauty competitions, but are about empowering young women, helping them build their self esteem and grow in confidence.

Darcey has been involved in charitable events to raise money for 'Beauty With a Purpose', the Miss Wales charity that helps poor, sick and disadvantaged people around the world.

As part of the fundraising, Darcey has



walked three miles with the other Miss Wales finalists around Cardiff Bay in their wedge heels, and also took part in the Cardiff 5k Winter Warmer with proceeds going to the charity.

Sponsored by Helen Leech at Polished Nail Bar, Barry and Soraya Kelly for #theglovesare-onfoundation that helps raise awareness of early detection of cancer, Darcey is an ambassador for the foundation and recently attended the Senedd with lots of inspiring people from around Wales.

Good luck, Darcey, in bringing the Miss Wales crown back to Barry.

**Sarah Milne**

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**CS**

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# A new 'grey war' is aiming to undermine trust in democracy

**THIS** has been a bad week for democrats: the massacres in New Zealand echoed a paper I gave at the Royal United Services Institute last week. I thought I should share some of it here in The GEM.

In the UK we have strict rules about

veracity and truth in the print media. Failure to identify and correct mistakes bring penalties and loss of trust.

Sadly, as many turn to social media for news those standards, obligations and consequences are not available, and this affects organisations such as NATO.

NATO's mutual defence guarantees are well-known. But less known is the duty which the Alliance's



member states have to improve their 'national resilience'.

Peace is not easy to achieve; it requires constant courage,

preparedness to deter opponents and a willingness to defend your values, your country, its politics and its people.

Today's NATO (in particular articles 3 and 4) requires its members to have resilience planning and preparedness for crises by providing for the continuity of government and government services, for energy, medicines, food and water supplies.

It also involves safeguarding the integrity of communications and transport systems, while planning for mass casualties and the uncontrollable movement of people.

Sadly, when it comes to preparedness Britain is lagging behind other NATO states and allies, in particular the Baltic and Scandinavian countries.

This matters, because the tools of hybrid warfare are numerous: propaganda and disinformation; cyberattacks; disruptions of energy and communications; military pressure; intimidatory exercises on borders; incursions into other countries' space without permission; blocking of sea lanes; submarine activity under sea lanes and alongside internet cables; exploitation of religious, language and culture divisions; and irregular warfare via proxy forces.

But are these attacks known and understood by the public?

Are people aware of this activity in the so-called 'grey zone' between peace and war? Are they aware that

the aim of such warfare is not to defeat armies, but to undermine trust in the State and to create internal tensions that can divert government attention and resources from external threats?

Often the attacks are launched by states. Terrorists also aim to create unrest by setting religious, ethnic, race, and political groups against each other and seek to encourage massacres such as we saw in New Zealand.

The live streaming of that attack was aimed at inciting others to follow this sick example. Millions viewed and shared the online horror.

I believe we need to build awareness of how quickly a democracy can collapse when anger, distrust, frustration, tension and conflicts erupt. We are vulnerable because of the values we take for granted: openness, freedom; access to the law; high levels of connectivity.

Such vulnerabilities have always been there and have always been exploited by adversaries. The difference is that today the pace is much faster, our interconnectivity is higher, our reliance on technology is unprecedented and our awareness and tolerance of threat and disruption is much lower than in previous generations.

We need to be aware of the threats we face. We all need to be aware that we are on the front line of a 'grey zone' war where attacks are not random, but with clear political intent.

We need to defend our values, our democratic structures from those who want to undermine them. Without political will and political unity, we have no deterrence, and without consensus on the problems and solutions, we have no resilience.

## Council's youth of-fending service collaboration ends

**A COLLABORATIVE arrangement which involves the sharing of youth offending services across three council areas is to end next month.**

The Western Bay Youth Justice and Early Intervention Service – which comprises Bridgend County Borough Council, Neath Port Talbot Council and the City and County of Swansea Council – will come to an end on April 1.

Cabinet Members from Bridgend County Borough Council have agreed that the time is right to bring the voluntary collaboration to an end, as it coincides with health services for Bridgend migrating east from the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board to the Cwm Taf Health Board.

## Policy provides support for care leavers through university

**A NEW policy for supporting care leavers through their university and higher education studies has been agreed by Bridgend County Borough Council.**

Previously, the council's financial support has enabled young people to meet the costs of term time and vacation accommodation, pay for tuition fees and receive weekly maintenance payments. The new policy continues to ensure that care leavers are not disadvantaged financially, but it gives them more personal responsibility for their finances and future.

The policy explains that the council will help all care leavers with their applications for a tuition

fee loan which they (like all other students) only start to pay back once they earn a salary over £25,000. The care leavers will also receive a Welsh Government Living Costs Grant of £8,100 a year which can be used to cover accommodation and living costs and doesn't need to be paid back.

They will also have the option of taking out an additional £900 loan should they require it, while BCBC will provide each of its care leavers with an allowance of £25 per week during term time, as well as a bursary in addition to the grants they are entitled to access. The £667 bursary will be paid at the completion of each academic year (£2,000 over three years) to support the student during their summer

vacation. The council will also offer a 'start up' grant to help the student buy the basics for independent university living such as bedding, kitchen utensils and a laptop. If a student finds themselves in particularly difficult personal circumstances that are affecting their studies, then the council can make additional discretionary payments.

The new financial arrangements in support of care leavers were first presented to Cabinet Members from BCBC in the autumn and have now been ratified as an official policy.

The impact of the council's new 'University Support Packages for Care Leavers Policy' will be reviewed in 12 months' time.

## Health boundary change reassurance for local residents

**RESPONSIBILITY for health care services in Bridgend county borough will move from the ABMU Health Board to the Cwm Taf Health Board from April 1, and local residents are being reminded that the boundary change won't affect how services are delivered to patients.**

Discussing the matter at a cabinet meeting on March 19, senior councillors from Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) were keen to emphasise the following:

- No services are being reduced or lost.
- How patients access or receive their care now will be the same after April 1, 2019.
- Patients will continue to travel to the same places as they do now for their care.

Council Leader Cllr Huw David said: "I really want to stress to local residents that there will be no changes to the way any existing healthcare services are provided as a result of this boundary change.

"This is an administrative change which affects the management of

health services. Until now, we have worked collaboratively with organisations to the west of us for health, and to the east of us for services including education. This boundary change will see more of our collaborations shift to the east and the Cardiff Capital Region."

"From a local authority perspective, the boundary changes will have an impact on the way that some of our health care services will be funded and run in the future, so a significant amount of work has had to be undertaken behind the scenes. But from a public perspective, the priority is to provide a seamless transition."

On April 1 both health boards will change their names to reflect their new geographical boundaries. From then onwards, the Cwm Taf University Health Board will be known as the Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board, while the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board will become the Swansea Bay University Health Board.

For further details, visit the Bridgend boundary change website at [info.bridgendboundary.wales/home](http://info.bridgendboundary.wales/home).

## Easter appeal for local young person's charity

**THE members of a young person's bereavement group in Bridgend are appealing for donations of Easter eggs and Easter treats, as well as essential toiletries that are required for everyday use, so they can hand them out to the homeless in Bridgend this Easter.**

A spokesperson said: "The young people are passionate about helping and providing for the homeless and want to make sure that everyone has a visit from the Easter bunny this year. "The Compassion Church on Noltan Street in Bridgend have kindly agreed

that the children can use the church to hand out the donations during the Easter week."

All the children attend the young person's bereavement support group, a registered non-profit charity called Bridgend Community Bereavement Group. The charity's volunteers and counsellors are providing support with their appeal, as they believe it is helping the children regain some confidence and be more interactive with others while they are experiencing grief.

For further information or to donate, please contact the charity on 07379 169836.

**BRIDGEND-BASED business-man Brian Stokes is originally from the Afan Valley and, on April 5, 2019, he is taking part in a seven-day trek of Kilimanjaro for a much-admired Welsh charity.**

LATCH, the Welsh children's cancer charity, supports children who are receiving treatment for cancer and leukaemia at the Children's Hospital for Wales.

Brian told The GEM: "This charity is



*Brian Stokes is gearing up to climb Mount Kilimanjaro.*

currently supporting a brave little girl in Maesteg, Amira Barry, who was diagnosed with leukaemia last year. The help and support

provided by LATCH has been amazing, and has inspired me to raise money for this very worthy charity, by climbing the world's highest free standing mountain."

The trip has been entirely self-funded by each individual, and all money raised will go to the charity.

Anyone who wishes to donate can go to Brian's JustGiving page and make an online contribution:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/brian-stokes-kilimanjaro> or can call 01656 660016 for more information.



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Meet your local officers at PENARTH Library on Thursday, April 4 between 11am and 12 noon.

There will be a police surgery at LLANTWIT MAJOR Library on Tuesday, April 9 between 10.30am and 11.30am.

If you have any issues that are affecting your quality of life, but are unable to attend a meeting, contact 101 for non emergencies or see [www.south-wales.police.uk](#) for contact details for your local PCSO; contact them directly for non emergency matters.

## This film certainly isn't What Men (or women) Want!

**W**AY back in 2000, Mel Gibson received a (fictional) bang on the head and discovered he could hear the opposite sex's most intimate thoughts in *What Women Want*.

Nineteen years later the genders have swapped but the core remains the same in *What Men Want*, which sees Taraji P Henson play sports agent Ali Davis. A woman in a predominantly male-dominated work environment, she's constantly looking for the edge over her colleagues.

Hoping to find answers from a psychic, Ali drinks a concoction that suddenly allows her to hear what men are thinking and, using her new ability, begins to use it to her advantage...

The concept of *What Women Want* was a neat conceit, one that allowed for a comedy of the sexes, and one that, particularly at this point in time, was more than ripe to be gender-swapped and tackled again.

It's unfortunate then that *What Men Want* ends up being such a turgid and laugh-lacking

effort, a film that squanders the premise and the talented cast with a script that doesn't really get going and, for a film that clocks in at nearly two hours, drags out a story that moves in ever more predictable circles.

In theory, Taraji P Henson's Ali should be easy to root for – marginalised in her efforts at work by a male-oriented attitude from her superiors and passed over for partner several times, her struggle is one that feels all too real. Yet the script and performance paint her as a overbearing, bossy and selfish character, one whose shortcomings, rather than used playfully to be redeemed at a later date, are ramped up without any desire to make changes.

Henson, who is a talented actress, seems an awkward fit for the broad strokes of the comedy here – all too often she is reduced to overacting and overplaying the jokes, while the cast around her suffer from a severe case of blandness with the exception of Tracy Morgan's surreal turn as the father of one of Ali's prospective clients, and Eryka Badu's part-time psychic who sets the plot



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in motion, though neither of these turns would have half the appeal in a better film.

Director Adam Shankman's CV is littered with middling comedies, and though he doesn't disgrace himself behind the camera neither does he cover himself in any kind of glory, the direction having the identikit feel of a early-noughties comedy (ironic given its source material), bringing little energy or excitement to proceedings.

There are a couple of funny lines, but on the whole the humour is leaden and predictable,

and it is a shame given the comic pedigree in front of the camera that not enough is done with them.

There was almost certainly a way of updating and modernising *What Women Want* to reflect the times we live in now, but this is most definitely not that film; the message, while commendable, comes without any subtlety and at points feels forced down your throat, where a defter touch would have been more smartly used.

It just means that *What Men Want* is a waste of everyone's time and effort: a film that reinforces stereotypes that grew tired a long time ago – this is something that regardless of gender, you most definitely don't want.

**VERDICT** - A weak update of *What Women Want*, *What Men Want* tries to give the story a relevancy and prescience but doesn't land; the humour is lacking, the film's message laboured and heavy-handed, and ultimately it's a forgettable piece of work. Poor.

**SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED:** *What Women Want* (2000), *Oceans Eight* (2018).

## Charity campaigner is left touched by numerous messages of support

**THE remaining funds of the Vale charity, the Ed Evans Foundation, have been gifted to local cancer charities and good causes.**

The GEM recently reported that the foundation, which raised more than £500,000 to support people living with cancer and for cancer research, was to close.

Sue Evans, who ran the foundation with help from her family,

said: "The Ed Evans Foundation would like to express its thanks to everyone for the many letters, emails and phone calls they have received since closing the charity. Having your continued support has been greatly appreciated."

"We are pleased to say that the remaining funds have now been donated towards a range of local cancer charities, as well as supporting local worthy causes."

## PACT in the Vale

**GIBBONSDOWN 'Cuppa with a Copper' is held every Monday morning at the Aberaeron HUB, Aberaeron Close, Barry, between 10am and 12 noon.**

BUTRILLS PACT will be held at the Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, at 6.30pm on Thursday, April 4.

Meet your local officers at PENARTH Library on Thursday, April 4 between 11am and 12 noon.

There will be a police surgery at LLANTWIT MAJOR Library on Tuesday, April 9 between 10.30am and 11.30am.

If you have any issues that are affecting your quality of life, but are unable to attend a meeting, contact 101 for non emergencies or see [www.south-wales.police.uk](#) for contact details for your local PCSO; contact them directly for non emergency matters.

## News in brief

### Highlight Park Cuppa

**AN invitation to come along and make friends twice a month every second and fourth Monday. Our next meeting is on Monday, March 25 from 2.30pm to 3.30pm at Highlight Park Community Centre. Gardening club**

**THE next meeting of the Cowbridge Gardening Club will be on Thursday, March 28 at 7pm in the Lesser Hall. The speaker will be Aisling Judge on 'Growing something different'. New and returning members all welcome.**

**U3A open day**  
**COWBRIDGE U3A will be holding an open day on Saturday, March 30 from 10am-1pm in the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge Town Hall. Refreshments available; all welcome. See [www.u3asites.org.uk/cowbridge](#) for further information.**

**Cowbridge Art Society**  
**ON March 21 CAS welcomes a new demonstrator - Serena Phillips ([www.facebook.com/SerenaPhillipsArtwork](#)) who will demonstrate painting a pet portrait in pastels.**

The following week is the last meeting of the spring term and there will be an illustrated lecture by Eleanor Bird from Monmouth. The title will be *Modernism and Abstraction: Key Moments in Art*.

CAS has annual calendar and art competitions and holds a number of social events; we meet on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge (7pm-9pm) and occasional visitors (small fee) and new members are most welcome. For details see [www.facebook.com/cowbridgeart.cas](#) or Instagram/cowbridgeartsociety.

**Cooking demos**  
**BACK by popular demand, Topstak has announced two cooking demonstrations on March 28 and March 30.**

Under the spotlight will be the popular electric range cooker, the Everhot. To book a place on the cooking demonstration, visit [www.topstak.co.uk](#) or call 01446 771567.

**Ayckbourn comedy at CADS**  
**CADS (Cowbridge Amateur Dramatics Society) presents 'Taking Steps' a comedy by Alan Ayckbourn on April 3 - 6 in The Market Theatre (by the Scout Hall); 7.30pm curtain, tickets £7.50 from WG Davies news-agents. Doors and Jim's Bar open 7pm.**

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Mike Hughes DipWCF, who was brought up with horses and ponies, is interested in modern remedial techniques and is currently studying for his BSc (Hons) Farriery at Myerscough College.

Rory Hill DipWCF, the youngest of the team, is familiar with the more recent developments in shoeing and shoemaking.

All work extensively with the local veterinary practices, and all three are registered with the Farriers Registration Council.

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## Your chance to help the Dogs Trust

**D**ID you know that your unwanted household ornaments, clothing, electrical goods and DVDs could help raise money for dogs in need of new loving homes?

Local Dogs Trust Cowbridge charity shop is reminding anyone who might have had or is planning a spring clean to think of them when it comes

to finding new homes for their pre-loved items.

All proceeds from sales go towards helping each of the 15,000 dogs the UK's largest dog welfare charity cares for every year.

Whether you're ready to donate or want to pick up a bargain, pop down to our shop between Monday and Saturday from 9am-5pm.

**We are looking for  
Dogs Trust Shop Volunteers!**

Could you spend a few hours a week to help in our **Cowbridge** shop?

Email your application to us at  
[charityshops@dogstrust.org.uk](mailto:charityshops@dogstrust.org.uk)  
or pop into the shop!

Volunteers must be over 18

Whether you're ready to donate, want to pick up a bargain or start volunteering, visit our shop Mon-Sat 9am-5pm.

**Thank you for supporting us!**

**Dogs Trust**  
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Vale of Glamorgan, Wales, CF71 7AB  
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## Posh Pawz is in its sixth year of pampering

**O**WNER Kath Phillips offer a full range of grooming services including free face trimming, nail clipping and anal glands in between appointments.

If your furry friend is suffering the effects of the wet winter, then book them in for springtime freshen up baths from £10 (depending on breed). There is also a range of harnesses, collars, leads and treats on sale.

The salon has recently been refurbished and is fully air conditioned and heated to ensure your "furbaby" has the best time at their spa day.

Emmi Pet Ultrasonic non-invasive teeth treatment is now also available to keep the build up of plaque and tartar at bay.

Early bookings is always advisable, for more information call Kath on 01446 710044/07974776620 and follow Posh Pawz on Facebook and Twitter, or visit [poshpawzsalonandspa.co.uk](http://poshpawzsalonandspa.co.uk)

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## Llantwit school trials new 'drop-off' system

**A LLANTWIT Major primary school is to trial a new system for dropping off children in the mornings after parents were told they couldn't use a nearby car park.**

Parents of pupils who attend Ysgol Gymraeg Dewi Sant on Ham Lane East in Llantwit Major have not been allowed to use the school car park for reasons of safety and congestion. Instead they have used the adjacent leisure centre car park but were told on March 15 that they couldn't drop off youngsters there either.

A letter from the school said using the car park was causing a 'serious health and safety issue' and went on '... I regret to inform you that from Monday, March 18, the leisure centre car park is not to be used by Dewi Sant parents to drop off or collect pupils at any time'.

One concerned parent, Elenid Carlig, said: "Many parents do not live locally and travelling in the car is a necessity. There are also parents who need to drive on to work because it is out of the area."

She said parents had been prevented from parking on Ham Lane East and the options for parents were very limited.

She added: "No one has actually advised us where we can park safely."

Over the weekend, parents contacted councillors asking them to look into the issue.

The leisure centre car park is already used by people playing sport, Ysgol Y Ddraig and the comprehensive school.

This week a Vale Council spokesperson said a trial had been agreed to sort out the problem: "Unfortunately, it was not considered appropriate for the car park at Ysgol Gymraeg Dewi Sant to be used as a drop-off and pick-up point by parents and carers for reasons relating to safety and congestion."

"After being made aware of this, some started using the car park shared by Llantwit Major School, Ysgol Y Ddraig and Llantwit Major Leisure Centre, which was not designed for this purpose and is similarly unsuitable."

"It is up to individual schools how they manage the drop-off facilities they have available, but there is no requirement to provide such amenities for parents."

"Instead, they are encouraged to park on-street outside the school premises, take advantage of opportunities to cycle or walk to school or use the school transport available."

"However, in this case, Ysgol Gymraeg Dewi Sant is trialling a new system in which parents wishing to take advantage of the breakfast club can drive into school and pause briefly while their children are collected by staff. Hopefully, this will help address the matter."

TC

## News in brief

**Illustrated talk**

**ON Saturday, March 23 from 1pm - 3pm there will be an illustrated talk by painter Professor Gerda Roper: 'A Survey of Women Artists' to celebrate International Women's Day and the Women's Art Show.**

All exhibitors in the Women's Open exhibition on show, and members of Art Central Friends, are invited, but a small charge of £2 will be made to any other other guests attending which will contribute towards the refreshments provided.

**Tractor Run**

**THE Vale of Glamorgan Ploughing & Hedging Society will run the annual Tractor Run on Sunday, March 24 organised by the Tractor Boys of Aberthaw, with the kind permission of Frank Sutton, St Mary Hill.**

The tractors will gather at Frank Sutton's yard for a 9.30am start and all money raised will be donated to the Parkinson's Trust in memory of the late John Watts, who was a loyal supporter of the society. Anyone wishing to support the charity and tractor run will be very welcome to join the gathering at 9.30am. Refreshments will be on hand and there will be a charity raffle.



## Work begins on £3.5 million project in Barry



From left: Marc Jehu, Cllr Margaret Wilkinson, Cllr Andrew Parker, Cllr John Thomas, Cllr Julie Aviet, Miles Punter (VoGC Director of Environment and Housing).

**WORK** has begun on a £3.5 million project at Brecon Court in Barry.

Developer Jehu Group is constructing 28 homes on the former sheltered accommodation site, and when complete, the scheme will consist of nine two-bedroom houses, four three-bedroom family houses and 15 one-bedroom apartments reserved for older people.

The scheme is part-funded by the Welsh Government.

## Barry-based author publishes first novel - and The GEM has a copy to give away!

A BARRY-based author, Catherine Blackmore, has published her debut novel, but it is not for the faint-hearted.

*Can't You Just Get Over It?* is described as a psychological thriller, and with supernatural overtones.

The blurb begins thus...

*An expressionless figure haunts Emily's dreams. Night after night, he pursues her, and night after night, she wakes as he stabs her.*

*When she starts seeing the figure at work and hearing voices, Emily begins to worry that her nightmares are becoming a reality. Something or someone is doing this to her, and as Hallowe'en grows closer and the nightmares get worse, she begins to worry for her sanity.*

*Desperate for answers, Emily struggles against the disbelief of everyone around her as she searches for a way to reclaim her life from her nightmares.*

A work of fiction perhaps, but it is a little more personal for Ms Blackmore.

She said: "I wrote as a hobby for many years, but suddenly, I lost my way. So I decided to take up a free course at The Open University. I loved the course, so I started a degree in English and Creative Writing and am currently in my second year.

"I started to write this book in the hope that I would find it therapeutic, as I battle with the same phobia as in the book.

"However, the emotions that resurfaced were painful at times and sometimes overwhelming, but it pushed me to continue writing and finish the book."

One lucky reader could win a copy of *Can't You Just Get Over It?* by answering this question:

What is an isobar?

Is it: a. a pub carved from frozen water; b. a form of exercise using weights; c. A line on a weather map linking areas of equal pressure.

Entries must be sent by email to [editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk](mailto:editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk) with the subject heading BLACKMORE COMPETITION followed by your initials, or by post (on a postcard or the back of a sealed-down envelope) to The Glamorgan GEM, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL, and received no later than noon on Monday, March 25, 2019.

Please include your full name, postal address, and email address so that you can be contacted if you are the winner.

The winner will be the first correct entry drawn out of a hat after that date, and must visit The GEM's office in Cowbridge to collect the book from the author and to have a photograph taken with her for publication in print and online.

Only one entry per person, the Editorial Team's decision is final, no correspondence will be entered into, and no cash alternative is available.

## Homelessness prevention model shortlisted for award

**THE Vale Council's homelessness prevention model has been shortlisted for UK Housing Awards' Homelessness Project of the Year.**

The shortlist was made by the council's Housing Solutions and Social Services departments and Llamau, Wales' leading homelessness charity.

A council spokesperson said: "The model is designed to reconnect young people with their parents, schools, and care-givers and facilitate a positive transition into adulthood.

"The council's Young Persons Gateway, facilitated by its Supporting People team, offers a single point of access for supported accommodation and streamlines the process of application, referral and assessment.

"Llamau's One Stop Advice Shop provides a mediation service to help young people reconnect with their families, support them while they are in alternative accommodation and help them access benefits."

Llamau helps to support some of the most vulnerable young people in the Vale and at 236

Holton Road, Barry, its doors are open to all.

Cllr Andrew Parker, cabinet member for housing and building services for the Vale Council, said:

"Homeless young people have different needs to adults, ones that can, at first be hidden or linked to disadvantaged childhoods or adverse childhood experiences.

"We've worked hard to forge relationships across the authority; Children's Services liaise with our Supporting People

team, for instance, while communicating with external companies like Careers Wales to help with access to education and employment for young people."

Joe Payne, Head of Bridgend, Cardiff and Vale Services and Family Mediation for Llamau, said: "Early intervention work and family mediation will prevent homelessness wherever possible and seek to maintain a young person in their home environment unless it is unsafe or inappropriate.

"Joined-up assessment processes then ensure that a young person needing accommodation is referred to the most appropriate form of accommodation, with the right level of support."

If you are a young person at risk of becoming homeless, or know of someone who would benefit from advice and support, contact the Council on 01446 748852.

## Choir's nightingales sang in Grosvenor Square\*

**ON March 8, 63 choristers from Cowbridge Male Voice Choir, led by musical director Rhiannon Williams and accompanist Sandra Williams, set off to perform two engagements at five star hotels in London.**

The first engagement was at the Grosvenor Square Hotel, where the choir were to sing at the 'Best in Wales' gala dinner held in aid of Velindre. The event was very well supported and was a sell out.

The choir sang, at first, in the champagne reception, performing a range of numbers showing the diversity of their repertoire. They then moved into the dining area and onto the stage.

The choir were asked to open

proceedings by singing the Welsh national anthem: this they did by singing a new arrangement by Rhiannon Williams. This was followed by more from their repertoire.

They then headed for the Sheraton Grand in Piccadilly to perform at a private function. Having completed the engagement, the choir retired to the bar and entertained residents and visitors to a typical 'afterglow'.

All good things must come to an end, and the choir left a wet London to return to Cowbridge, having successfully flown the flag for Cowbridge and Wales!

FM

\*GEM note: We know it should be Berkeley Square but...

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## Take part in Great British Spring Clean!

**FOLLOWING** the success of last year's Big Rural Spring Clean, The Countryside Alliance is thrilled to announce its support of this year's Great British Spring Clean (March 22 to April 23) by becoming a community partner and coordinating an event in support of this initiative run by Keep Britain Tidy.

The Countryside Alliance's Countryside Clean Up will be held on April 6 and 7 and we will be encouraging all of our members to organise a litter picking event in their local area.

Countryside Alliance's Polly Portwin said: "This is a fantastic initiative which we are very pleased to be supporting by organising our own Countryside Clean Up. Not only is discarded litter an eyesore, but it is potentially hazardous to farmed livestock, wild animals and domestic pets and by joining all groups together that use the countryside we hope to make a difference."

Chief Executive of Keep Britain Tidy, Alison Ogden-Newton commented: "The Great British Spring Clean is an opportunity for the millions of people who care about the environment on their doorstep to do something positive that will make a visible difference. Without the support of groups like the Countryside Alliance we would not be able to make that difference and we thank them for their support."

To find out more about the Countryside Clean Up and to sign up, visit the Countryside Alliance's website at: [www.countryside-alliance.org/countrysidecleanup](http://www.countryside-alliance.org/countrysidecleanup).

## AM attends anti-racism rally

**JANE Hutt AM** stood with the Muslims of Wales and the Vale of Glamorgan at the Temple of Peace at the anti-racism rally on Saturday.

She said: "The 'Standing with Christchurch' Vigil at the Temple of Peace and Health Vigil with Muslim Council of Wales and Citizens Cymru, and joining the March against Racism on Saturday gave me the opportunity to speak up for our Muslim community in Wales."





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## Penarth brass bands are set to lose funding



*Brass band performances in Penarth could become a thing of the past after a cut in funding.*

**THE chairman of Penarth Tourism and Visitor Association, Anthony Ernest, has called on Vale councillors to reject proposals to scrap £5,000 worth of funding for summer brass band concerts in the town.**

The Vale Council says it has taken the action because of reducing budgets and pointed out it still supports a number of events in the town.

But Mr Ernest said abandoning the weekend concerts in the height of summer would strike at the heart of the summertime programme of events which brings thousands of people to the resort.

He said: "These concerts not only bring great pleasure to visitors but also to the many Penarthians who regularly enjoy a walk along the seaford at the weekend. Ending the concerts would take away one more well-loved event that helps keep the esplanade and pier bustling and lively at peak times of the holiday period."

"Not so many years ago, concert style music was played on Sunday afternoons over a loudspeaker in the Italian Gardens while people relaxed in deck chairs the length of the promenade."

"Now the deck chairs have gone, the recorded music has gone and the replacement by brass bands which came from former mining valleys to play to appreciative audiences looks like going as well."

"Regrettably the Vale has decided to put much of its tourism 'spend' into promoting Barry Island, while the budget for Penarth is very low in comparison, despite Penarth being the second largest town in the Vale and paying a substantially larger amount of council tax to the Vale."

He said the actual cost of staging the concerts is "remarkably low" because there are no venue costs and no staffing requirements.

He added: "The budget cut for 2019 of around £5,000 for these concerts is such a small sum in return for the income generated in the town. Councillors face the charge of not being alive to exactly what tourism actually brings to a Welsh resort. I sincerely hope they will reconsider their proposal."

A Vale Council spokeswoman said that in a climate of reducing budgets and growing financial pressures, the council had to allocate its limited funds carefully.

She explained: "Increasingly, we are encouraging events to become self-sufficient and sustainable by seeking their own sponsorship and income sources rather than relying on grants. That strategy allows the council to focus its limited funds on helping new innovative events to start up."

"After financing the brass band for more than a decade, unfortunately this year that will not be possible. However, we are supporting a range of other events in Penarth, including the summer festival, Christmas festival, Distinguished Gentleman's Ride and Carnival Penarth."

"We are also currently developing a #DiscoverPenarth campaign with Penarth Tourism and Visitor Association and Penarth traders which we will run alongside Visit Wales' Year of Discovery campaign."

"When deciding which events to support, it is important to consider such factors as the scope of their appeal as well as the economic and social benefit they provide."

TC

## Costa Coffee drive thru creates 18 jobs

**CONSTRUCTION work has started on a drive-thru coffee shop at Barry's Waterfront Retail Park which will create 18 jobs.**

A Costa Coffee spokeswoman said: "We're excited about the opening of our brand new Costa Coffee drive thru store at Barry Waterfront, which is set to open with 18 jobs."

"We look forward to offering our customers the full range of food and drinks while dining in store or visiting the drive-thru, as well as being an active part of the local community by getting involved with events, providing the store as a meeting place and helping with fundraising."

An opening date will be announced shortly.

## A severe case of Grand Slam fever hits Llantwit Major!



## Sully woman Linda pledges support in cancer TV campaign

**A SULLY woman whose son and husband have both survived cancer is starring in Cancer Research UK's new nationwide TV awareness campaign called 'I Pledge'.**

Linda Davies appears in a moving short film highlighting the charity's commitment to life-saving research, which is possible thanks to people who leave gifts in their Wills.

Linda, a grandmother-of-three, knows first-hand just how crucial research is to accelerate progress and ensure more people survive.

Linda said: "My son was diagnosed with testicular cancer when he was 26. He was about to get married and was going to be a father too."

"He had surgery a week before his wedding and went on honeymoon not knowing the type or severity of the cancer. That was 19 years ago and he and his wife now have two children."

"Since then, my dad died from cancer, and then my husband, Mike, was diagnosed with prostate cancer six years ago. All three experiences are



the reasons why we need to support research.

"After my son and husband went through treatment, I wanted to say, 'thank you'."

"They have benefited from research and I wanted to help pass that gift on to others in the future so that they can benefit in the same way."

"That's why we set up a regular donation to Cancer Research UK and have also pledged a legacy."

"Going through cancer can be such a traumatic and dark time for a family, but leaving a legacy feels a very positive way of doing something about it. It means we can be optimistic about future treatments."

The new campaign encourages people to make a pledge – or promise – to leave something

in their Wills to help beat cancer for future generations.

Linda appears alongside two Cancer Research UK scientists from Cardiff, who want to turn these pledges into new breakthroughs and create new hope.

Gifts in Wills fund over a third of the charity's research, helping to turn discoveries made in the lab into better treatments for cancer patients in Wales and across the UK.

Last year, Cancer Research UK spent around £4 million in Wales on some of the UK's leading scientific and clinical research.

Ruth Amies, Cancer Research UK spokesperson for Wales, said: "We hope Linda's commitment inspires as many people as possible to consider leaving a legacy to the charity. When someone writes Cancer Research UK into their Will, they are enabling long-term research projects that lead to new treatments and cures."

For more information, visit [cruk.org/pledge](http://cruk.org/pledge) or call 0800 035 9000 for a free Gifts in Wills guide.



**THERE was Grand Slam fever across Wales on Saturday afternoon and Llantwit Major was no exception.**

Local photographer Andy Wicks captured excited Welsh fans preparing to watch the match at the rugby club, White Lion, Old White Hart and Kings Head.

It proved a historic day for Welsh rugby as Wales smothered Ireland 25-7 and secured a third Grand Slam under head coach Warren Gatland.

IMAGES by ANDY WICKS

## News in brief

**Illustrated talk ON Saturday, March 23 from 1pm – 3pm there will be an illustrated talk by painter and Professor Gerda Roper: 'A Survey of Women Artists' to celebrate International Women's Day and the Women's Art Show.**

All exhibitors in the Women's Open exhibition, currently on show, and members of Art Central Friends (ACF), are invited but a small charge of £2 will be made to any other guests attending, which will contribute towards the refreshments provided. This is an ACF sponsored event and our fourth artist talk of the year.

**St Donats Choral THE St Donats Choral's Easter concert will be held at All Saints' Church in Barry to help support the funds being raised to repair their roof.**

The programme will include a selection from *The Armed Man Mass for Peace* by Karl Jenkins, who most musical commentators feel is the finest living Welsh composer of his time plus *The Requiem* by John Rutter. The choir will be supported by a professional soloist and orchestra. Saturday, April 6 at 7.30pm is the date

and time to put in your diaries; tickets are £10 for adults and £5 for full time students, and can be bought from the choir website at [www.stdonats.org](http://www.stdonats.org), or from Nickelby's Book Shop in Llantwit or Vic Hopkins & Son Butchers in Barry and at the church on the night of the concert.

**PACT meetings CAERAU PACT at Noddfa Community Centre on Monday, March 25 at 6pm.**

Blackmill PACT at Blackmill Community Centre on Monday, March 25 at 6.30pm. Sam and Bryncoch PACT at Sam Life Centre on Tuesday, April 2 at 7pm.

Ogmore Valley PACT at Dinam Close on Thursday, April 11 at 7pm. Llangeinor PACT at the Richard Price Centre, Llangeinor on Wednesday, April 10 at 5.30pm.

Maesteg East, Maesteg West and Llangynwyd PACT at Cwm Calon Day Centre on Thursday, April 11 at 6pm. Bettws PACT at Bettws Life Centre on Thursday, April 11 at 2pm. Pyle/Cefn Cribwr/Connelly PACT at Pyle Life Centre on Thursday, April 25 at 6.30pm.

## PTA fundraiser at Llantwit Major Comprehensive

**THE PTA of Llantwit Major Comprehensive School is holding a Pamper and Prosecco evening at the school on Friday, March 22 from 6.30pm to 9.30pm.**

Entry is £5 (includes a glass of Prosecco). There will be six pamper providers, eight gift stalls, and a bar and food will be available. All are welcome.

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## Councils in talks over where to site a male refuge centre

**BRIDGEND County Borough Council (CBC) is working with other local authorities on plans to set up a male refuge for victims of domestic abuse.**

Growing numbers of men are seeking support but as yet there is no dedicated refuge in the county for male victims. Asking when the county might get its first male refuge at a recent council meeting, Cllr Carolyn Webster said one in three victims of domestic abuse was male.

She said: "In 2016/17, 2.7 per cent of men and 5.2 per cent of women experienced non-sexual partner abuse. What support is being given to men in this county?"

Officers said services were non-discriminatory and the local authority had "invested heavily" in support programmes, not only for victims but also for perpetrators to try and stop domestic abuse from taking place.

Martin Morgans, CBC's head of performance and partnership services, told councillors: "We are currently looking at opportunities as a joint service in terms of hostels supporting men, so we don't quite yet have a male refuge in

the county borough. We are working with other authorities.

"We acknowledge men are disclosing far more and that's something we want to address." He added: "It [a male refuge] is something I'd like to see if I'm being honest, because I think there is a need to support anyone in that situation."

Cllr Webster raised concerns over the location of any proposed shared facility with another local authority. She said: "You can't have people going from Ogmore Vale to live in Barry, maybe that's not where their community is and where they need to be."

Specialists working with victims have previously said they are unable to say whether domestic abuse against men is on the rise, but do say awareness of the issue has helped make it more acceptable for men to receive support.

The overview and scrutiny committee took place on Monday March 18.

**Liz Bradfield**  
Local democracy reporter

## Townswomen's guild pledges support for NCI Porthcawl

**PORTHCAWL Townswomen's Guild members recently enjoyed their 65th anniversary lunch at The Grove, which was very enjoyable.**

We had the pleasure afterwards of looking through old photo albums and trying to put a name to all the faces.

At our recent AGM we started with a talk from Porthcawl National Coastwatch Institution. It was very interesting to learn how many volunteers were needed to man the watch, and not all come from Porthcawl. We heard that Porthcawl was the second busiest station in the UK. As they rely on voluntary contributions we will be holding our autumn fair for them.

At the AGM we listened to reports from our chairman Dee Richardson, our secretary Jean Dorrington and our treasurer Janet Anderson and applauded them warmly for their hard work. We welcomed new chairman Freda Rodger and vice-chairman Helen Taylor and invited Judith Orphan to be our president for the year. She has been our tea lady for many years and richly deserved the position.

Next month's meeting is on April 10 at 2pm at All Saints' Church hall when Dean Powell will be telling us about Glyn Houston. That will bring back memories of old films, so do come and be reminded. All are welcome!

**Dorothy Thomas**

## Enterprising students aim to make revision relaxing

**STUDENTS in Bridgend taking part in a young entrepreneur scheme have come up with a novel way of helping pupils revise.**

Archways, the young enterprise team for Archbishop McGrath High School in Bridgend has developed a new version of a popular product, flashcards – which many students use as revision aids.

The team has developed 'the essentials' collection of scented flashcards, which is a collection of five different scents: lavender, rosemary, lemongrass, peppermint and bergamot. They hope that by infusing the humble flashcard with scent, it will help enhance



students' revision fulfilling their motto of "smell to do well". So far, they have sold over 250 units and have more orders to fill over the coming months. They retail for £1.99 for a pack of 40 cards or a deal of 3 for £5. The company is part of the national competition under young

enterprise where they set up a legitimate company for a year, hoping to make a profit while learning some valuable business knowledge.

The team consists of six members, two business advisors and a centre lead. The student team have a small following on Instagram and Twitter but hope to use this platform to help propel their product.

In future they hope to branch out into other revision supplies or revision packs. These can also be tailored to the student or to individual schools.

A team spokesperson said: "As a team of students we know how difficult it is to study but we also recognise how different people need to revise, and we hope that by developing this product it could be a great start into helping enhance students' revision with the use of aromatherapy."

They are trading on the certified platform YE Market Place and have social media options including: Instagram - @archways.ye and Twitter- @archways19.

## Lottery looks back at 25 years of good causes

**NEW figures reveal that nearly £45 million of National Lottery funding has been invested in Bridgend county borough since the National Lottery began almost 25 years ago.**

A Lottery spokesperson said: "Thanks to National Lottery players, lives of ordinary people have been transformed in the Bridgend County Borough Council (CBC) area over the past quarter of a century.

"Nearly 1,700 National Lottery grants have been awarded since 1994, helping to strengthen our communities, power our sports teams, protect the environment, unleash local creative talent and look after the elderly and those at risk."

A wide variety of local projects have received National Lottery funding over the last 25 years. Large grants have gone to:

- Supporting a project to create a new maritime centre and community hub at Porthcawl Harbourside. This will include a coastal science and discovery centre, cafe, wine bar, roof terrace and micro-brewery (£1.1 million);
- A grant to Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Local Health Board to reduce stigma and improve public awareness regarding mental health issues (£1 million);
- Providing coronary angiography facilities within a dedicated catheter laboratory

at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend (£739,000).

Most National Lottery grants, however, are for £10,000 or less, for instance:

- £4,833 for Tondy Rugby Football Club to create a soft play area for children accessible by the whole community.

- £1,500 for Brynecethin Tang Soo Do Korean martial arts club to buy new mats and improve safety and comfort for members.
- £1,500 for Rest Bay Lifeguard Club to increase participation rates among teenagers.

To celebrate the 25th anniversary, any organisation that has received National Lottery funding has the chance to gain nationwide recognition by entering the 25th Birthday National Lottery Awards – a search for the UK's favourite ever National Lottery-funded projects.

National Lottery Awards winners will receive a £10,000 cash prize and national recognition at a ceremony broadcast on BBC One later in the year.

To enter your favourite project in this year's National Lottery Awards, tweet @LottoGoodCauses with your suggestions or complete an entry form through our website www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/awards. Entries must be received by midnight on April 30, 2019.

AS

## More than 100 residents at advice day

**OVER 100 local residents attended last week's funding advice day in Maesteg, organised by Chris Elmore MP and Huw Irranca-Davies AM.**

With some 19 different funding providers on hand to give advice and support, many clubs and community groups from across Bridgend County Borough and Rhondda Cynon Taf were able to inquire about their future funding needs.

With organisations including the Heritage Lottery Fund, Charity

Bank, representatives from the local councils and several local businesses, many attendees left the event with leads which may help them secure the financial support they need to grow in the future.

Chris Elmore MP said: "I'd like to thank all of the local residents who came along to our most successful funding advice day yet. It was great to see so many clubs and local groups coming together to seek assistance with their fundraising efforts."

AS

## Bridgend Quiz League news

**THE latest results are as follows:**

Crown Maesteg 38, TyRisha Arms 49; Laleston Inn A 42, Five Bells A 42; Tondy Railway Club 45, Penybont AFC Nomads 51; Oddfellows Arms – no match; Pheasant Gamekeepers two points; Chatterton Shunters 48, Prince of Wales Coychurch 50; Five Bells B 49, Laleston Inn B 48; Cabo Roche 41, Six Bells Clangers 61.

**Here are a few teasers!**

1. What Vietnam war film won four Oscars in 1979?
2. Which Scottish loch contains the largest volume of fresh water in GB?
3. Launched in 1966, what was the first British credit card?

**Steve Kingscott**

2 Loch Ness, 3 Barclaycard.  
ANSWERS - 1. Platoon.

## Pat's head shave in memory of Kristie Lee

**A BRIDGEND grandmother who recently lost her granddaughter to cancer is to mark her 80th birthday on Mother's Day by doing a head-shave for Velindre Cancer Centre and Macmillan Cancer Support.**

Pat Lake and her family were devastated by the death of Kristie Lee, aged 30, recently. She had been diagnosed with cancer 12 months ago.

Her friend Carol Thomas told The GEM: "Pat, who is no stranger to cancer and ill-health herself, is really caring and has already shaved her hair off twice before to raise money to fight this dreadful disease and to help other causes.

"Her third head shave will take place in the Riverside Tavern, Bridgend, at 3pm on Sunday, March 31, where she will be supported by family and friends."

## 'And after all, you're my WonderWool...'



**THE craft group in Colwinston has spent the last six months working on three large wall hangings: one is patchwork, one is knitted and the other one is felted.**

These will be exhibited at WonderWool Wales, which is held on the Royal Welsh Showground at Builth Wells in April. It is the largest wool and natural fibre festival in Wales.

On Saturday, March 30 from 1.30pm to 3.30pm the work will be

on display at Colwinston village hall. Free tea and cakes will be provided.

We are running a coach to WonderWool on Saturday, April 27. It will be a day out with lots to see and buy. Call Chris on 01656 660935 for details.

**Town & Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012**  
**Notice Under Article 10 Application For Planning Permission**  
**Proposed development at:**  
Land To The Rear Of The Angel Inn, Mawdlam, Bridgend County Borough, CF33 4PG.  
**Take notice that application is being made by:**  
Peyton Property.  
**For planning permission to:**  
Erect one new dwelling.  
Any owner of the land or tenant who wishes to make representations about this application should write to Bridgend County Borough Council, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB within 21 days of the date of this notice.  
**Signatory:**  
Mr John Matthews  
Planning & Development Consultant  
Date: 21-03-2019

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# Commonwealth Day celebrations at Barry school



## YSGOL Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg hosted a Commonwealth Day celebration on March 11.

Athletes, politicians and the choir Only Men Aloud all joined the pupils. The event, which celebrated Team Wales' success at last year's Commonwealth Games in Australia, was star-studded.

The pupils welcomed the audience with their message of the importance of Commonwealth connections.

Dafydd Ellis Thomas, AM and Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism spoke of the importance of getting young people into sports, and highlighted how important the Commonwealth Games are, as Wales can compete as a country.

After the athletes took a question and answer session, the audience were captivated by the voices of the school's choir and Only Men Aloud. Together, they performed the Welsh classic 'Calon Lân'.

Following the concert, the primary school pupils were trained by the Welsh Commonwealth team, and inspired to follow their dreams to become future athletes. As they were interviewed by S4C's programme *Heno*, pupils talked of how they hope to continue to work hard in order to one day be able to represent Wales.

Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg wishes to thank Team Wales for visiting the school and for choosing the school to host the celebrations. Diolch a phob lwc at y gemau nesaf.

Heledd Lewis



## French students meet the 'Women of the Dawn'



IT was the day the weather changed back from balmy summer to torrential winter. Gathered in Old Hall Gardens were the Cowbridge Charter Trust volunteer work party led by Richard Browning and the local branch of Merched y Wawr, led by Carys Whelan, who were about to plant three climbing roses to scramble over the wall, tossing scented beauty to flourish from a dark corner.

Suddenly our elderly group was augmented by tall, brightly dressed young people who had little or no English. Their guide explained that they were French students and that one of their tasks for the morning was to record someone speaking Welsh.

They really were in luck to find eight Welsh speakers in one place but it's a moot point whether they understood the finer points.

Carys explained that Merched y Wawr is the national women's movement with members throughout Wales

and beyond, who meet to enjoy good company, and speaking and promoting the Welsh language.

They donated money to buy the roses, one of them being called New Dawn in their honour as Merched y Wawr means 'Women of the Dawn' in English.

This was duly recorded on one of the students' mobile phones with equal enthusiasm and bafflement: someone said the original question had concerned Welsh beer, but they seemed well pleased.

Carys performed the planting ceremony, adding special loam with a shiny trowel. Old Hall Gardens will be enhanced for years to come by summer months of lovely roses

which will be enjoyed by all who walk through the gardens, and most of all by the members of Merched y Wawr who so generously endowed them.

(It's easy to join the volunteer work party: come along to Old Hall Gardens any Thursday morning between 9.30am and 12.30pm to talk to us!)

**Linda Osborn**  
**AR ddiwrnod**  
**llwydaidd yn y Fro,**  
**daeth criw o aelodau**  
**Merched y Wawr, Y**  
**Bontfaen at ei gilydd**  
**yn Ngardd yr Hen**  
**Neuadd. Roedd**  
**wedi penderfynu**  
**cyfrannu coed rhosod**  
**i'r Ardd gan ddefnyddio**  
**rhodd o arian**  
**a gyflwynwyd i'r**

**gangen.**  
Dan arweiniad Linda Osborn, un o'r Ymddiriedolwyr, penderfynwyd ar dri rhosyn dringo a fyddai'n rhoi lliw a phersawr ar ochr fewnol wal deheuol yr ardd. Roedd tîm o'r gwirfoddwyr wedi paratoi'n drylwyr ar gyfer y plannu, ac fe gafodd sawl un ohonom ran yn y gwaith o blannu a sefydlu'r planhigion newydd.

Mae'r enw ar un ohonon nhw yn addas iawn ar ein cyfer - rhosyn o'r enw New Dawn, a ddewiswyd i adlewyrchu enw Merched y Wawr, y mudiad cenedlaethol sy'n gweithredu drwy gyfrwng yr iaith ac yn ymgyrch drosti yma yng Nghymru a thu hwnt.

CW

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# Cup heartbreak for Maesteg Celtic

**ON an atrocious evening, on a neutral ground at Kenfig Hill, Maesteg Celtic RFC entertained Division Two (West Central) side Porthcawl RFC in the semi-final of the inaugural District Cup competition.**

With a very strong wind blowing directly across the field, the game began with the Celtic pack immediately putting pressure on the Porthcawl defence, with No 8 Peter Kehoe leading the charge, forcing the first few penalties of the game.

Matthew Harris missed with his attempt in very trying conditions, but then set up a golden opportunity with a fine kick to the corner.

Unfortunately what followed was a sign of things to come as Porthcawl pinched Celtic's line-out, and the chance was gone.

The set scrums were a big bonus for Celtic with the front row of Matthew Phillips, Morgan Reeves and Sean Lambert continuing to dominate.

Conditions were making life difficult for both teams, especially throwing-in, but gradually Porthcawl were looking more confident as the game went on, with the forwards competing well and the backs looking dangerous.

The reminder of the first half continued to be dominated by the kicking tactics from both teams, with few chances created by either side, the half time was score 0-0.

The second half brought with it worsening conditions, with swirling rain, dropping temperature and fog.

Celtic made some surprising substitutions and Porthcawl took advantage of a silly penalty in front of the posts, which was converted by their No 10 White.

Celtic seemed to step up the pace and after a few dominant scrums, should have been allowed to carry on a drive over Porthcawl's line, but the referee blew up and awarded Celtic a penalty instead.

A short one was taken, which was stopped five metres from the line, but the Porthcawl centre won the ball on the floor, and raced away from 90 metres out to score under the post, converted by White.

Celtic showed plenty of desire and pressed for a score but with little joy as Porthcawl with their controlled kicking game and offensive tackling kept them at bay.

Soon after, another penalty, this time with a yellow card, was given away and once again White kicked a simple goal to put Porthcawl in the driving seat with 15 minutes to go.

Celtic pressed once more and Porthcawl's composure was rattled, and they were lucky not to concede a few more penalties as they fought to keep Celtic out, but hold out they did.

A few unsavoury moments resulted in a flurry of red and yellow cards, issued on the instigation of the touch judge, and brought the game to a disappointing close, with Porthcawl the winners by 13-0.

KS



Bridgend Athletic under-7s.

## Bridgend Athletic RFC mini and junior rugby round-up

**THE under-7s travelled to Ogmores Vale for a round robin with Valley Ravens and Maesteg Celtic.**

The Ath had quite a few players missing but still managed to take a squad of 18 players. Two pitches were set up with the Ath fielding two teams there was plenty of game time for everyone. Well done to Riley Thomas on a great debut for the club.

Bridgend Athletic joined Valley Ravens in wearing odd socks for the games to support World Down Syndrome Day on Thursday. **The under-8s were looking forward to their second outing of the week, having taken on Pyle and Porthcawl in a round robin under floodlights on Wednesday evening.**

Thanks to a let up in the weather, their scheduled trip to Ogmores Vale for a round robin with the Valley Ravens and Pencoe got the green light.

The under-8s were able to field two teams, but unfortunately the large number of other age groups in attendance resulted in a shortage of available playing area.

The Ath boys all put in a great shift and yet again delivered a very respectable set of results, against some tough opposition, winning three and drawing three.

In addition to the rugby, a mention must also be given to the great support shown for World Down Syndrome Awareness Day by our players and their families! All the boys turned out sporting their odd socks, with the vast array of different styles, some wacky, proving quite a spectacle. **On March 13 the under-9s took a squad of 22 players to Pyle RFC.**

The Ath fielded two teams who all played against Bonymaen, Bridgend Sports and Pyle. It was a great evening of rugby with the Ath winning four and losing one.

Try scorers were: Rudi Quinn (3), Ethan Davies (3), Dylan Jones (3), Seth James (2), Grayson Lewis Whelan (2), Harry Clark (2), Osian Lord (2), Ewan

Gill and Oliver Turvey. Stand-out performers in defence were Seth James, Grayson Lewis Whelan, Regan Henly, Osian Lord, Rudi Quinn, Dylan Jones, Max Edwards and Rhys Cawley.

Well done to Owain Williams on a great debut for the club. **On Sunday, March 17, the under-9s had 24 players available, and the Ath's two teams were joined by Tondur and Maesteg Celtic on the 4G at Parc Derwen.**

It was a great morning of rugby with all four teams getting plenty of game time. Out of the two games against Tondur the Ath won one and lost one, and out of the two games against Maesteg Celtic the Ath also won one and lost one.

Try scorers were: Ethan Davies (5), Ethan Morris (3), Osian Kenny (2), Dylan Jones (2), Mason Brown, Rudi Quinn, Oliver Turvey and Harry Clark. Stand-out performers in defence were Osian Kenny, Regan Henly, Mason Brown, Rudi Quinn, Ethan Davies and Jude Lewis. Both Tondur and Maesteg Celtic joined the Ath in wearing odd socks to support World Down Syndrome Day on Thursday. **The under-10s travelled to Cwmafan on Sunday to play the hosts and Bridgend Sports, with the boys choosing to wear odd socks in support of Down Syndrome Awareness Day.**

All teams agreed to play 12-a-side to allow more game time for the three large squads. First up for the Ath were Bridgend Sports. Jackson, on the halfway line, out-paced four defenders to touch down for the first try.

The second half saw another solo effort from the halfway, as this time Albert used all his power to storm through the defence for the Ath's second try, followed by Ollie and Evan for a final score of 4-1.

Cwmafan proved sterner competition, but Jackson opened the scoring only for Cwmafan to respond almost immediately. The Ath finished the half with a great team

try scored by Charley, but Cwmafan scored twice in response to leave the final score Cwmafan 3, Ath 2.

**The under-11s travelled away to Baglan to play a big side with good numbers. The Ath were only able to field 11 players, which meant that a number of players had to start out of position.**

Instead of worrying, the opportunity arose to be able to experiment with the team in readiness for next season. As usual the boys stepped up and took the fight to Baglan, hitting them with three early tries.

By half-time the Ath were 25 points up which gave us another opportunity to move some players around. The second half was much the same and the Ath dominated.

Baglan did hit back with a few tries of their own but the Ath were too good to let the game slip and ended the game ahead 45-15. **The under-12s welcomed a strong Ebbw Vale to the 3G pitch at Parc Derwen.**

With just 13 players available due to injuries and other commitments, the odds were stacked against the Ath as Ebbw Vale arrived with a squad of 26.

The first half was evenly-contested but Ebbw Vale drew first blood with a converted try on 10 minutes and they extended their lead with their second converted try in the 18th minute which was followed by a breakaway try for Ebbw Vale on the stroke of half-time.

The Ath came out firing in the second half but Ebbw Vale scored their fourth try of the match on the half-hour mark.

Ioan Hammond scored a fantastic solo try for the Ath on 38 minutes, but with just 13 players available it was only a matter of time before fatigue set in, and Ebbw Vale were able to take advantage of some tired tackling for the final score of the match with a converted try in the dying minutes.

Final score  
Athletic 5, Ebbw Vale 33  
AB

## Manic Monday for busy chess club

**IT was a busy and congested Monday for the Barry Chess Club.**

We had three matches on the same night, all at home. This stretched our resources and our venue to the limit. We even had to dig out some old analogue clocks.

In Division One the Bosons played mid table Cardiff Pawns. Matthew Davies and Steve Cunliffe earned draws on the top two boards.

We were out-rated on the bottom three boards so it was a pleasant surprise to pick up a win on board 4. Well done Tom Cooke.

We lost 3-2 which is insufficient to move us off the bottom of the table but brings the Bosons up to the shirttails of the Cardiff AJs.

We have now lost seven games in a row. If we are to stand any chance of avoiding relegation we need a minimum of three wins

from our remaining five games.

In Division Three the Quarks played the North Cardiff Panthers.

The Panthers' team is based around a number of youngsters and their father. These youngsters are improving rapidly so their current rating does not really give an indication of their actual ability although the same could be said for their dad.

We were heavily out-rated on all five boards so a whitewash could have happened. It is down to Peter Watkins to save our blushes with an excellent victory on board 2. In this instance a 4-1 defeat was a good result.

The Quarks are happily in mid-table, some six points clear of bottom club Bridgend C. It would require an exceptional turnaround in results for the Quarks to be relegated so let's just hope I am not counting my chickens too early.

In Division Four the Gambits played local rivals the Penarth Piers.

Chris Green, Ken Curry and Ieuan Thomas all won their matches to give us a 3.5-1.5 win.

Of note here was Ken's match which seemed lost when he only had two pawns against two pieces but he somehow found a way to queen one of them!

The Gambits move back up to second place in the table. The North Cardiff Penguins move up to third after inflicting a first defeat of the season on Pentrych C. With four games to go promotion for the Gambits is still on the cards.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club, St Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY.

The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival.

For more details visit our website at [barrychessclub.yolasite.com](http://barrychessclub.yolasite.com).

Mike Sully

Phil Jones

## Trinity qualifies for show jumping championships

**TRINITY Horton, aged 14, has qualified for the Pony Club Dengie National showjumping championships in Addington on April 14 at her first attempt.**

Trinity is a member of Dinas Powys Pony Club, one of 18 clubs in the south Wales region. She is the youngest member to qualify and represents the whole Area 10 of pony club competing against older competitors on horses in the second round.

Trinity has only been riding *Cloudy* since November and the second round regional qualifier was only her sixth show on the pony! *Cloudy* is an 18-year-old Irish Sports Pony who loves to jump!

Trinity told us: "This is the first time I've even tried to qualify and I'm thrilled to be representing the whole area of south Wales for pony club area 10."

Julia, Trinity's mum, added: "I'm very proud of Trinity as she's only been riding for the past four years. It was a hotly competitive class in both rounds. She won her first round and she was unlucky not to win the second, having the penultimate fence down in the jump off against the clock."

"We were hopeful we would qualify, but didn't believe it until the final result. We are really looking forward to going to the finals now."

JH

## Latest from Bridgend Bridge Club

**THE latest results for Bridgend Bridge Club are as follows:**

On March 13: First, Tony Disley and John Evans; second, Alan Heath and Rob Forman; third, Marjorie Morris and Bill Turner. The winners on handicap were Marjorie Morris and Bill Turner.

On March 14: First, Christine and John Evans; second, John Henson and Stuart Davies; third, Margaret Roach and Leila O'Hagan. The winners on handicap were Margaret Roach and Leila O'Hagan.

On March 15: First, Tony Disley and Jenny Vaughan; second, Dave and Debbie Lea; third,

Mari Jones and Teresa Griffiths. The winners on handicap were Dave and Debbie Lea.

Regular club nights take place at 7pm on Wednesday and Friday evenings at Nolton Church Hall.

On Thursday afternoons at 2pm, again at Nolton Church Hall, there is a gentle bridge session when help is available with the bidding. All sessions are played in a friendly manner, visitors and new members are always welcome.

Before the Thursday afternoon session, at 1pm, Steve Burgoyne will give a talk on card play techniques.

GJ

## Tondur and Titans in action this Saturday

**COME and support Tondur Titans this Saturday where they play Rhys Y Felin at Pandry Park, kick-off 2.30pm.**

The Titans will be playing on the adjacent field to the Tondur first team, who take on Maesteg Celtic in a crucial Division One Central West encounter, also kicking off at 2.30pm.

Mike Sully

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Application for consent for the storage of arsine and phosphine at: **Unit 218, Sully Moors Road, Barry, CF64 5RP** by **R & A Properties Cardiff Limited.**

The Vales of Glamorgan Council will decide whether or not to grant consent, and if to grant will decide what conditions to grant.

Representation (including comments or questions) may be made in writing to the Council for 21 days from the date of this notice to the following address quoting 2019/00293/HAZ reference number (The Vale Of Glamorgan, Dock Office, Barry Docks, CF63 4RT or email [planning@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:planning@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk) or [an.gov.uk/admin@randaproperties.co.uk](mailto:an.gov.uk/admin@randaproperties.co.uk) quoting 2019/00293/HAZ

**Date: 21st March 2019**

## LICENSING ACT 2003

Notice of Application to Vary a Premises Licence

**TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

Take notice that JD Wetherspoon plc has made an application under Section 34 of the Licensing Act 2003 to vary a premises licence for the Sir Samuel Romilly, Romilly Buildings, Broad Street, Barry, CF62 7AU. The application seeks to amend the plan attached to the premises licence and to amend/include conditions on the premises licence. There are no other changes to the Premises Licence. The postal address of the relevant licensing authority is set out below and a record of the application may be inspected there during normal office hours. Anyone who wishes to make representations regarding this application must give notice in writing to the Licensing Department, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4RU or by e-mail to [licensing@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk).

Written representations must be received no later than Thursday, 14th April 2019. It is an offence, under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with an application which, upon conviction, carries an unlimited fine. Dated 14th March 2019

**ULRICH LUKE WENDON** (previously known as **ULRICH LUKAS WENDRINER** and **ULRICH CLAU WENDRINER**) (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of Cowbridge Vale of Glamorgan, who died on 06/12/2016, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 31/05/2019, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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- Pre-paid Funeral Plans (Written details on request)

## Family Notices

## FOLLETT

## Rosalind (née Mooney)

Peacefully passed away on 13th March 2019, aged 63 years, loving mum, nan, wife and sister.

*Will be sadly missed by family and friends. God Bless you Rosalind and keep you in his care.*

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare, until the service at Coastlands Family Church on Wednesday, 27th March at 11am, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery.

Flowers may be sent directly to the funeral home.

## BURKE

## Martin

Unexpectedly but peacefully on 15th March, 2019, aged 48 years. Beloved son of Anthony and Pat, loving father to Robert and Jessica. Cherished grandfather to Gracie-Rose, Harriet and Evie-Rose.

*Martin will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.*

Please contact A.G. Adams Funeralcare, Gladstone Road, Barry on 01446 735400 for details of the funeral.

Flowers may be sent directly to the funeral home.

## THOMAS

## Patricia Joan (Pat)

Peacefully at home on 10th March, dearly loved wife of Ron and much loved mother of Philip, Roger, Fiona and David.

*Pat will be sadly missed by her loving family and friends.*

Service at Coychurch Crematorium on Friday, 29th March at 1.45pm. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to the Spinal Injuries Association (Dewis Cymru) c/o Rookwood Hospital, Fairwater Road, Llandaff, Cardiff, CF5 2YN.

## GREEN

## Elizabeth Mary (Bettie)

Peacefully on Sunday, 10th March at the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff. Beloved wife of the late Clifford, loving mother to Kevin, much loved grandmother to Matthew and Simon.

*Bettie will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.*

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fommon. Funeral Friday, 29th March, service and cremation 12 noon at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry.

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## PHILLIPS

## Marlene

It is with deep regret that we announce that Marlene sadly passed away after a short illness in hospital on 8th March 2019. Adored wife of Brian (Mick). Loving mother of Paul and Glenn, mother-in-law to Carole and cherished grandmother to Lisa and Ben.

*She was much loved by everyone and will be greatly missed.*

Funeral service to be held Wednesday, 27th March at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 4pm.

Family flowers only.

All enquiries to Green Willow Funerals, 21a Station Road, Dinas Powys, CF64 4DE.  
Tel: 029 2051 4627.

## MARTIN

Winifred Rosina  
(Formerly Jones)

In loving memory of Winifred Rosina Martin who sadly passed away on 10th March 2019 at Llandough Hospital. Beloved mum of Anthony and Frank. A cherished nan to all her grandchildren, great grandchildren and great great grandchildren.

*She will be dearly missed by all who knew her.*

Resting at The Vale Funeral Service, Court Road, Barry until her service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Friday, 22nd March at 10am.

Family floral tributes only.

Funeral arrangements entrusted to Lyndsay J Ellis, telephone 01446 407962.

## HUNT

## DORIS (Dot)

Peacefully at the University of Wales, Cardiff on 13th March, Doris of Lee Road, Barry. Dearly beloved wife of the late Fred, much loved mum of Debbie and Claire, mother-in-law of Frank and adored nan of Tom.

*Doris will be sadly missed by all her loving family and friends.*

Doris is resting in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until her funeral service at the Barry Cemetery Chapel on Wednesday, 3rd April at 11.30am, followed by interment in the cemetery at 12 noon. Flowers may be sent to the funeral home.

Funeral arrangements entrusted to Anthony D.H. Thomas.

## INGLE

## Stephen

Stephen's family wish to announce his sad passing on 14th March at the University Hospital of Wales, aged 55 years. Stephen was well known, formerly of St Athan and Barry. A devoted husband to Cath, much loved dad of Scott and Sophie. A loved son-in-law to Maureen and a loving brother of Sue.

*He will be greatly missed by all his family and many friends.*

Stephen is resting in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, Court Road, Barry until his service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Friday, 29th March at 2pm.

Family floral tributes only. Donations, if desired, may be made at the service to support The Geoff Smith Foundation (in aid of Multiple Sclerosis) in memory of Stephen.

Further enquiries please telephone 01446 407962.

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## JAMES

## Jill

## (Mrs Ewart Needham)

(Actor, Producer, Literary Agent)

Jill died peacefully on 7th March at The Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend after a short illness. Much loved daughter of Louise and a wonderful friend to so many in the Vale of Glamorgan and in the media and Bafta circles of London.

Funeral service at St Mary Magdalene Church, Monkash on Thursday, 28th March at 1pm. Family flowers only. Donations to the Sandville Self Help Care Centre, Bridgend.

## LOVELL

## Richard Charles (Rich)

Richard passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his loving family on 10th March 2019, aged 71 years. Cherished husband to the late Lesley. Loved and adored father of Katrina and Robert. Cherished and loved grandfather to Nikita. Brother to Alison.

*Richard will be sadly missed by his family and friends.*

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service at 10am on Monday, 25th March at A.G. Adams Chapel, followed by committal at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. Donations, if desired in memory of Richard, to Marie Curie.

## STELLING

Shelagh Rosemary  
(née McRadden)

Peacefully passed away on 7th March 2019, aged 82 years. Devoted wife of the late Bryan, loving mother to Michael, Raymond and David. Mother-in-law to Ann, cherished grandmother and great-grandmother to Lily, Jay, Zak, Eve and Pia.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare, until the service in our Chapel of Rest on Friday, 29th March at 10.30am, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery. Flowers may be sent directly to the funeral home.

## FOURACRE

## Vera

Peacefully with family present at Barry Hospital on 19th March 2019, Vera aged 89 years. Beloved wife of the late Trevor James, both former proprietors of A.G. Adams & Son. Much loved mum of Robert, Jacqueline, Jane and Margaret. Much loved mother-in-law, grandmother and great grandmother.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service on Wednesday, 3rd April 2019 at All Saint's Church at 12.30pm, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery.

Flowers may be sent to the funeral home. Donations in lieu of flowers, if so desired, for The Alzheimer Society c/o the funeral director.

## Acknowledgements

## SIMPSON

## David

Tina and family would like to thank everyone for their kind messages and lovely cards. Thank you to the Redcoats for their presence and Guard of Honour, David would have been so proud of you all.

Special thanks to Ceri-Lou Newman for her beautiful service also thanks to Rebecca and her colleagues at A.G. Adams Funeralcare for their kindness and guidance. To those who attended the funeral and afterwards to celebrate David's long and happy life, all the family can say is "What a send off!" We thank you.

## SCOTT

## Andrew

Andrew's family would like to thank all the relatives and friends, too numerous to mention, for attending his funeral. A big thank you for the cards of condolence, good wishes, kind messages and lovely flowers received at this sad time.

Special thanks to Rev Kevin Lake and to Lyndsay Ellis and staff for their kind care at this time.

## Acknowledgements

## Expression of Thanks

SCOTT  
Andrew

Andrew's family would like to thank most sincerely Laila and all the other carers who made his everyday life comfortable and happy. The care really was all about love.

Also, a big thank you to the nurses that watched over him.

*God Bless you all.*

## WARNER

## Frank Richard

Margaret and family would like to thank everyone who attended Frank's funeral service, and also for the lovely cards received.

We would like to thank Anthony Thomas of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, Barry for his professionalism and very caring personal service.

We would also like to thank Father Ben Andrews for a lovely service celebrating Frank's life.

A big thank you for the donations received for the Alzheimer's Society and to Liam and staff at The Glenbrook Inn.

## WILDING

## Yvonne

Anna, Andrew, Isabella and Lara would like to convey their heartfelt thanks to all their wonderful friends. You have been truly amazing. A warm thank you to the Reverend David Boulton for his support through this sad time.

Thank you also to all who attended the funeral service on Wednesday, 20th February and for all the kind messages and generous donations received. Keith and Yvonne .... always dearly loved and remembered.

*'If I keep a green bough in my heart, the singing bird will come.'* - Chinese proverb.

## In Memory

## Birthday Memory

## CLARKE

## Peter

My beloved husband Peter, no birthday cards today my love.

Only wonderful memories of our time together.

Miss you so much, love you for ever, Ilona  
xxx ♥ xxx

## FARRUGIA

## Gwen

19th March

Gone but never forgotten.

Always in our hearts.

Val & family xxx

## LAMBERT

## Ron

One year on the 25th March since you left us.

Thinking of you every minute of every day.

Love you

Jos & family xxx

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## Seaview Lads Angling Club latest results



**MARCH** has been a mixed month for anglers: while some have enjoyed halcyon days in the Canaries sunshine, the hardy anglers left behind have grappled with dropping temperatures, high wind and rain, courtesy of Freya and Gareth.

Local fishing has been difficult and eels have made up several bags. Aida Harris had three of these small slippery characters in his winning weight on March 10. In second and third were Thomas Williams and

Roger Green. The quality of eels improved by the following week when Roger was narrowly squeezed from a winning place by Aida.

Roger's 6lb eel would often have been plenty enough to win but Aida's eel of 6lb 5oz pipped him at the post.

Word on the beach is that Roger has progressed from using smoked mackerel as bait to using prime salmon - a fishy tale if there ever was one!

Pictured is Jordan Clarke with a fine, locally shore caught, small-eyed ray of 11lb 7oz.

JC

## Rhooose Lifeguards win medals in 27 events at championships



**THE recent Welsh Still Water Championships saw Rhooose Lifeguards win an impressive haul of medals across 27 events, ranging from nippers, youth and masters. The nippers came fifth overall with some fantastic results and great performances by all, resulting in lots of points for the team.**

The medal winners were:

Mabli Gordon - silver in flippers, silver in manikin, silver in board, which was an excellent set of results for an eight-year-old in her first competition. Ethan Hole took a silver in the flipper race and a silver in the manikin. Robert

Grice had a bronze in the flipper race, Ava Wong won gold in the board and silver in the manikin. Ethan Hole and Lewis Trigg took bronze in the board rescue. Megan Lewis and Ellie Bryan also had a bronze in the tube rescue.

In their final year competing in nippers, Robert Grice and James Ashman took bronze in the tube rescue.

Rhooose also won a bronze in the girls' board relay event.

Moving on to the youth, the small team from Rhooose achieved an excellent third place overall, with some fine performances from all who raced.

The medal winners were: Xantia Hobrough, third in the 100m manikin carry with fins, a great result from Xantia who is one of the youngest of that age group. Robert Grice took third in the 14 and under manikin carry with fins. A very strong performance from Robert racing in his first junior event. Fin Sullivan and James Ashman took third in the boys' rope rescue. The team of Maisy Wiggins, Megan Lewis, Elliana Phillips and Ellie Bryan took third place in the 13 and under manikin relay, a fantastic result for their first junior competition.

Also racing in their first junior competition, the boys' team of Seth Waggett, James Ashman, Ethan Harding and Jason Grice took a well-deserved third place in the boys' manikin relay.

The older boys of Ethan Wall, Charlie Thomas, Jai Gerrish and Sam Jenkins won a bronze in the 16-17 boys' manikin relay.

More impressive results came in the medley relays, with the girls' team of Xantia Hobrough, Fran Hopkins, Ella Bulmar and Evie Wong taking

third place in the 14-15 girls' event.

The under-13 event saw the team of Ellie Bryan, Elliana Phillips, Megan Lewis and Maisy Wiggins take a silver.

Not to be outdone, the boys' under-13 medley relay event saw the team of Louis Peake, Ethan Harding, James Ashman and Robert Grice take a silver medal.

In the open, the small team of Helen Jenkins, Georgia Wall, Kiera Harris, Ollie Wong, Ethan Wall, Simon Perry and Jason Grice gained valuable points to place Rhooose fifth overall.

Finally, yet importantly, the small team of masters placed sixth overall. Not everyone was lucky enough to win medals but it was great to see some new faces racing for Rhooose in this category, gaining valuable points for the team.

Medal winners were: Karen O'Donoghue-Harris - Gold in the 100m manikin carry with fins, gold in the 100m manikin tow with fins and silver in the 50m manikin carry. Karen paired up with Melissa Downton and won gold in the rope rescue.

The pairing of Stuart Wong and Tony Lloyd took a bronze in the rope rescue. The 50-59 mixed medley relay team of Simon Hopkin, Stuart Wong, Melissa Downton and Karen O'Donoghue-Harris took a well-deserved bronze medal.

It was a great team effort from every Rhooose member who competed across all the age groups, gaining valuable points for the club.

A big thank you goes to the excellent coaching team for the hard work and dedication they put in to training our members and to all parents for their continued support.

JH



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### Vale of Glamorgan Bridge Club news

**THE results for the Vale of Glamorgan Bridge Club for March 18 are as follows:**

First, Kevin Maddox and John Beard 71.53 per cent; second, Steve Burgoyne and John Evans 58.10 per cent; third, Dave and Debbie Lea 55.32 per cent.

LE



# Gymnasts get a boost from house builder



Young gymnasts with Charlotte Gabb (left) and Sophia Erickson (right) from Barry YMCA Gymnastics. Michelle Thomas (Persimmon) is back row, centre.

**A THRIVING gymnastics club in Barry has been named as one of the first winners of a new campaign.**

YMCA Barry Gymnastics Club has received £1,000 as one of the first regional champions of Persimmon Homes' 'Building Futures' programme in partnership with Team GB, the British Olympic Association.

YMCA Barry Gymnastics Club, which has more than 750 members, will put its £1,000 windfall towards a new specialist trampoline.

Anthea Clements, chief executive officer at the club, said: "We

are delighted to have won this funding from Persimmon Homes.

"We are always trying to improve our facility and equipment and at the moment we're raising money for a much-needed Acrotramp. "An Acrotramp is a type of long trampoline and acts as a safe training aid for the gymnasts to learn acrobatic skills."

Building Futures is being delivered through the Persimmon Charitable Foundation, which last year gave away £620,000 to support children's sport.

To find out more about 'Building Futures' or to apply, visit [www.persimmonhomes.com/building-futures](http://www.persimmonhomes.com/building-futures)

## Barry RFC hope for better weather

**FOR the second successive week, Barry RFC's attempts to catch up with their games in hand was thwarted by the weather, this time at Llanharan.**

They will hopefully get back into action this weekend when they travel to Abercynon for a 2.30pm kick off. A bus will leave the club at 12.30pm for players and supporters.

The Lottery rolls over again this week to £3,950 after last week's numbers 06, 11, 18 and 23 failed to produce a winner. Two tickets matched three numbers to win £10.

AJ

## Latest from Barrivale Bridge Club

**THE results for the Barrivale Bridge Club session on March 12 are as follows:**

Barrivale WBU sims heat: first, Mick Green and Sean MacDougall 64.08 per cent; second, Debbie Richards and Noelle Bond 62.67; third, Mark Roderick and Kay Dyer 61.58. The handicap winners were Hilary Morgan and Debbie Dawkins.

New members at the club are always welcomed and a partner may be arranged, if required. If you would like to join us please call any of the following numbers: 01446 418380

or 01446 733425 or 01446 735592 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry at 7pm on Tuesday evening.

Alternatively, players inexperienced or new to bridge playing may attend the following sessions: Friday 10am at the Pioneer Hall for lessons and assisted play.

Thursday afternoons for assisted play from 1.30pm - 4pm at the Barry United Church, Heol y Llongau, Barry CF634AP (the water-front). Come and give it a try and learn more about this popular and fascinating game from excellent instructors, who will soon be hooked!

## Old Hall Bridge Club

**THE results for Wednesday, March 13 are:**

First, James Mangles and Sara Bartlett; second, Graham and Sue Norris.

MR

TP

## Barry Chess Club news

**THE battle to finish in the top three places in division four is hotting up, with the Barry Gambits and Barry Stauntons occupying second and fourth places respectively.**

On Monday evening, the Stauntons were in action against the Pontypridd Goshawks, one of the main contenders for the coveted positions. Unfortunately for Pontypridd a number of their squad were unavailable and arriving with only three players meant the Stauntons were two points ahead before the match even commenced.

The three boards that were played were all close-fought affairs. Ken Curry and Martin Ricketts both earned good draws against higher-rated opponents,

while Dave Mahoney was not disgraced despite losing to Ponty's John Callan, who outgraded Dave by some 300 points.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club, St Nicholas Road, Barry (CF62 6QY). The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival. For more details visit our website at [barrychessclub.yolasite.com](http://barrychessclub.yolasite.com)

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2008 (08) LAND ROVER FREELANDER 2 2.2 TD4 SE 5dr, Red, SW, AUTO, NAV/PDC/P-ROOF, Diesel, 69,810 miles .....£7,790



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2007 (57) VOLKSWAGEN TOUREG 3.0 TDI V6 SE 5dr Estate, black, AUTO, LTHR/NAV/PDC, Diesel, 73,000 miles .....£6,600



2006 (06) NISSAN 350Z 3.5 V6 300 3dr Coupe LTHR/XENON/18" alloys, grey, petrol .....£6,490



2014 (14) VOLKSWAGEN POLO 1.2 70 Match Edition 5dr Hatchback, Brown, PDC/DAB, Petrol, 50,802 miles .....£6,292



2010 (60) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 2.0 TDI 140 GT 5dr Hatchback, black, Diesel .....£6,290



2005 (55) MERCEDES-BENZ SLK 200K 1.8 2dr Roadster Tip Auto, Silver, AIR-S/LTHR/B-T, Petrol, 63,000 miles .....£5,990



2015 (65) FIAT 500 1.2 POP STAR 3dr Hatchback, White, Petrol, 31,182 miles .....£5,945



2013 (63) FIAT 500 1.2 S 3dr Hatchback, White, Petrol, 25,396 miles .....£5,490



2008 (08) VOLKSWAGEN POLO 1.4 SE 80 5dr Hatchback, Automatic, Blue, Petrol, 28,892 miles .....£5,290



2004 (04) MERCEDES-BENZ CLK320 3.2 Avantgarde 2dr Coupe AUTO/LTHR/17", Silver, Petrol, 28,104 miles .....£4,990



2011 (11) FORD FIESTA 1.2 82 Zetec 3dr Hatchback, white, Petrol .....£4,490



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Winner Brian Jones with sponsor Josh Edwards, Arwyn John, Chris Rooney and Captain Clive Thomas.

## New captain Clive drives off for the Farmers!

**THE captain's 'drive-in' for Clive Thomas, the recently installed captain of the Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society, took place recently at Southerndown Golf Club when 34 members assembled at the first tee to witness the traditional opening shot of the new golfing season.**

Despite the pressure of being surrounded by interested spectators a very impressive opening drive of 160 yards set the tone for what members hope will be an enjoyable year for this farmer from Llantwit Major. Playing for the Southerndown Cup and a range of prizes supplied by sponsors Clive Edwards (Construction)

Ltd ensured a keenly contested competition with just four points separating the top six competitors at the close of play.

For many, however, trying to execute shots off fairways still damaged from last year's drought compared to playing off plush fairways enjoyed at their home course, proved quite a challenge which quite a few failed to overcome.

For Brian Jones, however, the condition of the course was not an issue. Having recently undertaken a late career change from farming to property development, this popular member returned to the clubhouse with a winning score of 35 stableford points and received the Southerndown Cup from sponsor's representative Josh Edwards.

Runner-up was Chris Rooney who scored 34 points followed by Hugh

Williams with 32 points. Vice-captain David Harris, who in the last 12 months has invested heavily in undergoing a complete 'makeover' in an effort to achieve the perfect stance, swing and follow, finally benefited from his investment to finish in fourth place with 31 points and be rewarded with a boot jack for his fine effort.

Nearest the pin on the Watts & Morgan sponsored par-3 holes were Chris Watson, Tony McCarthy and Martyn Edwards (2). Recently-appointed handicap secretary Tim Jarvis hit the longest drive down the 18th fairway to collect the Picketston Poultry sponsored prize and Lyn Thomas returned home with the Llanerch Vineyard sponsored prize when correctly guessing just 23 balls would remain out in the thick

gorse associated with this course. This raised £75 for the Velindre Cancer Care Charity.

Gareth Perkins was rewarded with a bottle of malt whiskey for correctly guessing the distance of the Captain's opening drive and Arwyn John, now an honorary member who a day before had celebrated his 86th birthday, won the visitors prize with 31 points.

The society's next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 28, at Pennard Golf Club sponsored by JCP solicitors of Cowbridge.

T.McC

## YMCA Barry gymnasts' grading success



Grade 6 (front) Poppy Falconer, Charlie Rae Davies, Islah Anderson, Connie Clark, Llinos Jones, Olivia Strong, Soren Hill. Back, Ellie Gronow, Ruby Jo Grocott, Farron Jones, Ava Rae Hopkins, Robyn Thomas, Ava Carter and Mya Edwards.

**YMCA Barry's female gymnasts have had huge success in the last few weeks when 27 gymnasts completed their gymnastics grading and YMCA Barry had a 100 per cent pass rate.**

This is a big achievement for both the club and the gymnasts who competed against other clubs in south central Wales. The grading system is designed to ensure the gymnasts are on the correct path to progress in competitive gymnastics and the first grade (Grade 6) is completed at the age of eight.

The gymnasts competed on all four apparatuses: Floor, Bars, Beam, Vault and a range and conditioning routine, which tests the gymnast's strength and flexibility.

In the Grade 6 category, YMCA Barry's eight-year-olds Poppy Falconer, Charlie Rae Davies, Islah Anderson, Connie Clark, Llinos Jones, Ruby Jo Grocott, Olivia Strong, Soren Hill, Farron Jones, Robyn Thomas and Mya Edwards competed in the 'In Age' category.

In the 'Out of Age' category, Ellie Gronow, Ava Rae Hopkins and Ava Carter competed.

Within the 'In Age' eight-year-old competition, Mya Edwards received sixth on Floor and fourth on Vault. In the 'Out of Age' category, Ava Carter gained sixth on Beam and Ellie Gronow claimed fifth on Floor, sixth on

Bars and became the Range and Conditioning Champion and third in the Overall competition.

In Grade 5, Lacey Jones received sixth on Range and Conditioning, Katie Wong claimed third on Bars, second on Floor and became the Range and Conditioning South Central Champion. Lottie Cummins was presented with fifth on Beam, fourth on Floor, second on Vault and became the Range and Conditioning joint South Central Champion with Katie and the South Central Grade 5 Bar Champion.

Nia Beasley claimed third on Bars, third on Range and Conditioning and became the Beam, Floor and Vault South Central Grade 5 Champion.

In the overall category where all five routine scores are added together, Katie Wong was fourth, Lottie Cummins second and Nia Beasley became the overall Grade 5 South Central Wales Champion. Katie, Lottie and Nia qualified to represent South Central Wales in the Welsh Grading finals.

In the Grade 4 category, 10-year-olds Ruby Clark, Rosie Jo Bishop, Gracie Jones and Melissa Cookson competed in the 'In Age' category. In the 'Out of Age' category, Sophie Notton, Stacie Leigh White and Seren Doel competed, all of whom demonstrated elegant and dynamic gymnastics. In the Out of Age competition, Seren received sixth on Bars and Sophie earned third on Floor.

Within the 'In Age' category, Melissa received third on Range and Conditioning, Ruby claimed sixth on Vault, sixth on Beam and fifth on Floor. Rosie was presented with second on Vault, second on Beam, second on Floor and became the South Central Grade 4 Champion on Bars and Range and Conditioning.

Gracie claimed fourth on Vault, second on Bars, third on Range and Conditioning and became the South Central Grade 4 Champion on Beam and Floor.

Overall, with all five scores combined, Ruby Clark was fifth, Rosie Jo Bishop second and Gracie Jones became the South Central Grade 4 Champion. Ruby, Rosie and Gracie all qualified to represent South Central Wales at the Welsh Grades Finals.

Congratulations to all the gymnasts who passed their grade and to the dedicated coaches at YMCA Barry for their successes. YMCA Barry Gymnastics cater for all levels of gymnastics with Gymbabies and Gymtots, gymnastics for boys and girls from beginners to international gymnasts – most recently with two gymnasts, Josh Cook and Iwan Mephram, representing Wales at the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

For more information, call 01446 724000, email [sophie@ymcabarry.org](mailto:sophie@ymcabarry.org), uk or follow us on social media @ymcabarry.

## Cowbridge Darts League round-up

**ON Tuesday, March 12, top of the table Edmondes B beat the Victoria Inn 7-2.**

This was despite Amanda (Victoria Inn) winning a leg with a 112 three-dart-out (new ladies' highest out) and Kate George (Victoria Inn) winning a leg with 13 darts.

Also in this game Martin Thomas (Edmondes B) hit his third 180 of the season.

Second-placed Highwayman Inn beat the Edmondes C by the same 7-2 score, Tom Verrill (Highwayman Inn) hitting his second 180 of the season.

The Farmers Arms beat the Llanharry 5-4 and the Hairry Farmers beat the Red Lion Inn 7-2. Chris Curlew (Red Lion) won his match by hitting a 112 three-dart-out.

In the other match the One Town Hall came back from 2-4 down to win 5-4.

Present league standings, after 15 weeks, are: Edmondes B (104 points), Highwayman Inn (98), Edmondes A (75), Llanharry (66), Farmers Arms (60), Victoria Inn (59), Hairry Farmers (58), One Town Hall Square (43), Edmondes C (40) and Red Lion Inn (18).

Next week, Tuesday March 26, Llanharry Workingmen's Club hosts the men's singles knock-out competition. The action will start at 8.15pm and spectators are welcome.

For further information e-mail Paul at [cowbridge-darts@gmail.com](mailto:cowbridge-darts@gmail.com), up-to-date information can be found on the website: [www.darts.apsn.co.uk](http://www.darts.apsn.co.uk).

PJT

## Vale SLSC Nippers enjoy success at first pool competition



**AT the recent Welsh Stillwater Championships held at Swansea, Vale Surf Lifesaving Club Nipper section enjoyed their first pool competition.**

The Nipper section of the club was represented by Summer Hurley, Harry Nicholas, Kaiya Takata, Katie Luen-Twining, Esme Bennett, Gethin Barber, Evie Barber, Jessica Oakley, Katie Oakley, Honor Hopkin, Elinor Burrows, Owen Boffy, Freya Dobson and Oliver Nolan; the majority of whom were first-time competitors not only at a Stillwater competition but also in a 50m pool. Each and every

member of the team put in excellent performances.

Harry Nicholas was superb in the 8yr Manikin Carry event winning a gold medal and he also won a bronze medal in the Board Race and came in fourth place in the Flipper Race. Gethin Barber was excellent in the Manikin Carry finishing in fourth place while Elinor Burrows achieved a brilliant fifth place in the Manikin Carry.

Despite being such a small team the Nippers finished in 11th place overall and everyone at Vale SLSC is extremely proud of them all.

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14 64 BMW 116 D M Sport 3dr, 18" alloys, cruise, Bluetooth, dab, 29k, blue.....£11995  
15 65 BMW 116 D Sport 5dr, sat nav, privacy glass, comfort pack, 17" alloys, 24k, choice.....£11295  
15 64 BMW M135i 3.0 M Sports 5dr automatic, sat nav, Bluetooth, 34k, orange, full oyster leather.....£16995  
14 14 BMW M235 3.0 i 2dr Automatic, pro sat nav, Harman kardon, red, full leather.....£16495  
16 66 BMW 320 D M Sport GT 5dr, BMW warranty Dec 2019, pro sat nav, heated seats, cruise, silver, full leather.....£15495  
16 66 BMW 420 i Luxury Gran Coupe 4dr Automatic (184bhp), BMW warranty Oct 2019, sat nav, reverse camera, heated seats, 16k, white, full leather.....£19995  
16 16 BMW 420 D 190 M Sport 2dr Automatic (190bhp), sat nav, heated seats, grey, full leather.....£16995  
16 66 BMW 420 D M Sport Gran Coupe 5dr, BMW warranty Dec 2019, sat nav, heated seats, black, full leather.....£19495  
16 66 BMW 430 D M Sport Gran Coupe Automatic, BMW warranty Sept 2019, pro sat nav, reverse camera, 19" alloys, black, full leather.....£19995  
16 16 BMW 430i M Sport 2dr Automatic, M sport plus pack, 19" alloys, Harman Kardon, wide screen sat nav, met grey, full leather.....£20995  
17 17 BMW 430i M Sport Convertible Automatic, BMW warranty June 2020, 19" alloys, sat nav, Harman kardon, 2k, individual rose quartz, full individual leather.....£29995  
15 65 BMW 520 DM Sport 4dr Automatic, sat nav, 18" alloys, heated seats, choice, full leather.....£14495  
18 18 BMW 520i M Sport 4dr Automatic, BMW warranty July 2021, sat nav, xenons, cruise, 15k, white, full leather.....£26995  
18 18 BMW 530 E M Sport 4dr Automatic, BMW warranty June 2021, sat nav, 19" alloys, dab, 10k, blue, full leather.....£31495  
14 14 BMW 640 DM Sport 2dr Automatic, sunroof, sat nav, head up display, soft close doors, 43k, carbon black, full ivory white leather.....£19995  
15 65 BMW 640 DSE Gran Coupe 4dr Automatic, sat nav, 20" alloys, privacy glass, black, full leather.....£20495  
16 66 BMW 640 3.0 D M Sport Gran Coupe 4dr Automatic, BMW warranty Nov 2019, sat nav, privacy glass, choice, full leather, 9k, from.....£23995  
16 65 CITROEN C4 CACTUS 1.2 Pure Tech (82) Feel 5dr, cruise, Bluetooth, 29k, white.....£7995  
16 66 DS DS3 1.6 BlueHDI Chic 3dr, DS warranty Dec 2019, air-con, cruise, Bluetooth, white.....£7495  
16 16 FIAT 500 1.2 Pop Star 3dr, air-con, alloys, aux, usb, 19k, black.....£6495  
17 17 FIAT 500 1.2 Lounge 3dr, pan roof, Bluetooth, PDC, choice.....£6795  
18 67 FIAT 500 1.2 Lounge 3dr, Fiat warranty Feb 2021, pan roof, cruise, Bluetooth, pdc, 9k, blue.....£8495  
17 66 FORD FIESTA 1.0 EcoBoost 140 ST-Line 3dr, Ford warranty Feb 2020, sat nav, cruise, 11k, choice.....£9795  
18 67 FORD FIESTA 1.0 EcoBoost ST-Line 3dr (New Model), Ford warranty February 2021, sat nav, 17" alloys, Bluetooth, 9k, black.....£11995  
16 65 FORD FIESTA 1.6 EcoBoost ST-3 3dr (180bhp), sat nav, heated seats, xenons, 14k, white, half-leather.....£11795  
16 66 FORD FIESTA 1.5 TDCI Titanium 5dr, cruise, Bluetooth, dab, aux, usb, 20k.....£8795  
16 66 FORD FOCUS 1.5 TDCI Titanium X Estate, Ford warranty Nov 2019, sat nav, 17" alloys, 29k, black, half-leather.....£12495  
17 17 FORD FOCUS 1.5 EcoBoost ST-Line 5dr (150bhp), Ford warranty July 2020, sat nav, Bluetooth, dab, 14k, grey.....£13495  
15 65 FORD FOCUS 2.0 TDCI 185 ST-3 Navigation 5dr, sat nav, heated seats, blue, full leather.....£12495  
16 65 FORD GRAND C-MAX 2.0 TDCI Titanium X Navigation 5dr (7-Seater), pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, 6k, blue.....£15995  
16 66 FORD KUGA 1.5 T EcoBoost ST-Line 5dr, Ford warranty Jan 2020, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, 23k, white, half-leather.....£16995  
15 15 FORD MONDEO 2.0 TDCI Ecotonic Titanium 5dr, sat nav, cruise, dab, aux, choice.....£8295  
17 17 HONDA CIVIC 1.5 VTEC Sport 5dr (180bhp), Honda warranty April 2020, sat nav, reverse camera, privacy glass, 23k, blue.....£15495  
15 65 HYUNDAI TUCSON 1.7 CRDI BlueDrive SE Nav 5dr, Hyundai warranty until Jan 2021, sat nav, reverse camera, heated seats, 27k, choice.....£12995  
18 68 HYUNDAI TUCSON 1.7 CRDI BlueDrive Go SE 5dr, Hyundai warranty Oct 2023, sat nav, reverse camera, 3k, white.....£19495  
15 65 JAGUAR XE 2.0 D 180 R-Sport 4dr Automatic, sat nav, cruise, heated seats, dab, privacy glass, 25k, black, full leather.....£16495  
16 66 JAGUAR XF 2.0 D (180) R-Sport 4dr Automatic, Jaguar warranty Nov 2019, sat nav, 18" alloys, heated seats, choice, full leather.....£18495  
17 17 JAGUAR XF 2.0 D 180 Portfolio 4dr Automatic, Jaguar warranty March 2020, sat nav, reverse camera, 10k, white, full leather.....£20995  
16 66 KIA OPTIMA 1.7 CRDI 2 4dr, Kia warranty Oct 2023, sat nav, reverse camera, 10k, silver.....£12495  
17 67 KIA OPTIMA 1.7 CRDI ISG 2 Estate, sat nav, cruise, reverse camera, choice.....£12495

15 65 KIA SPORTAGE 1.7 CRDI 2 ISG 5dr, Kia warranty Dec 2022, pan roof, cruise, 11k, white, half-leather.....£12795  
17 67 KIA SPORTAGE 1.7 CRDI 3 ISG 5dr, Kia warranty Sept 2024, pan roof, sat nav, 19" alloys, reverse camera, 19k, blue, full leather.....£18495  
15 65 LEXUS CT200H 1.8 Advance Plus 5dr Automatic, sat nav, glass sunroof, 23k, white, half-leather.....£15495  
16 16 MAZDA CX-5 2.2 D Sport 5dr, sat nav, reverse camera, black, full leather.....£10995  
15 65 MERCEDES A180 1.5 CDI Sport 5dr Automatic, sat nav, Bluetooth, cruise, 35k, silver.....£13795  
13 13 MERCEDES C220 CDI BlueEfficiency Executive SE 2dr Coupe 7G-Tronic Automatic, silver, full leather.....£9495  
14 64 MERCEDES C220 BlueTec Sport Premium Estate 7G Tronic, premium pack, pan roof, reverse camera, sat nav, white, full leather.....£15995  
18 67 MERCEDES C300H AMG Line Hybrid 4dr Automatic, Mercedes warranty Feb 2021, sat nav, reverse camera, silver, 6k, full leather.....£24995  
15 65 MERCEDES CLA200 D Sport 4dr Automatic, sat nav, privacy glass, 33k, grey, half-leather.....£17495  
15 65 NISSAN JUKE 1.6 DIG-T Tekna 5dr (187bhp), sat nav, reverse camera, white, full leather.....£9495  
16 16 NISSAN JUKE 1.5 DCI Acenta Premium 5dr, sat nav, reverse camera, 25k, white.....£9995  
15 65 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI N-Tec + 5dr, sat nav, pan roof, reverse camera, cruise, 10k, choice.....£12995  
15 65 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI Tekna 5dr, sat nav, pan roof, reverse camera, 29k, blue, full leather.....£13295  
17 67 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.2 DIG-T Acenta 5dr (New Model), Nissan warranty Jan 2021, sat nav, tech pack, 5k, red.....£14995  
15 15 NISSAN X-TRAIL 1.6 DCI Acenta 5dr, pan roof, cruise, privacy glass, grey.....£12495  
16 66 NISSAN X-TRAIL 1.6 DCI Acenta 5dr X-TRonic 7-Seater, Nissan warranty Oct 2019, pan roof, cruise, 23k, black.....£15995  
17 67 RENAULT CAPTUR 0.9 TCE Energy Expression + 5dr, Renault warranty Nov 2021, Bluetooth, cruise, 6k, black.....£10495  
14 64 RENAULT CAPTUR 1.5 DCI Dynamique S Medianav Energy 5dr, sat nav, reverse camera, 19k, choice.....£8995  
17 67 RENAULT CAPTUR 1.5 DCI Dynaique 90 S Nav 5dr, Renault warranty Oct 2021, sat nav, cruise, pdc, Bluetooth, 10k, grey.....£11995  
16 65 RENAULT KADJAR 1.5 DCI Dynamique S 5dr, Renault warranty Feb 2020, sat nav, 19" alloys, cruise, 30k, blue.....£11995  
17 67 SEAT ALHAMBRA 2.0 TDI CR Ecotonic SE (150) 5dr (7-Seater), Seat warranty Dec 2020, cruise, Bluetooth, choice from.....£17495  
17 67 SEAT LEON 1.4 TSI 125 FR Technology 5dr, Seat warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, 8k, choice from.....£12795  
18 67 SEAT LEON 1.4 EcoTsi FR Technology Estate DSG Automatic, Seat warranty until Feb 2021, sat nav, cruise, choice.....£13495  
16 16 SEAT LEON 2.0 TSI Cupra 3dr (290bhp), Seat warranty August 2019, sat nav, heated seats, 19" alloys, 15k, red, full leather.....£16495  
17 67 SKODA KODIAQ 1.4 TSI Editon 150 5dr DSG Automatic (7-Seater), Skoda warranty Nov 2020, pan roof, sat nav, heated seats, 8k, brown, full leather.....£24995  
17 17 SKODA SUPERB 2.0 TDI Laurin & Klement 5dr DSG Automatic, sat nav, Bluetooth, full leather, silver.....£17995  
16 66 SKODA OCTAVIA 2.0 TDI SE-L 5dr, Skoda warranty Dec 2019, sat nav, Bluetooth, dab, black.....£11495  
17 67 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 CDTi Elite 5dr, Vauxhall warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, Bluetooth, 20k, silver, full leather.....£11495  
15 65 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 Sting 5dr, cruise, electric windows, 24k, red.....£5995  
15 15 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 T (100bhp) Limited Edition 3dr, cruise, 17" black alloys, 42k, red.....£6295  
16 16 VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 1.6 CDTi ecoFLEX Design 5dr, Bluetooth, cruise, 28k, silver.....£8795  
16 66 VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0 CDTi 170 SRI VX-Line 5dr Automatic, Vauxhall warranty Oct 2019, 19" alloys, sat nav, cruise, 22k, black.....£12495  
16 16 VAUXHALL MOKKA 1.6 Exclusive 5dr, 18" alloys, cruise, Bluetooth, choice.....£8295  
16 66 VW POLO 1.4 TSI ACT Blue GT 3dr, VW warranty Dec 2019, electric glass sunroof, Bluetooth, cruise, choice.....£11495  
16 66 VW SCIROCCO 2.0 TSI Bluemotion Tech R 3dr (280bhp), VW warranty Oct 2019, sat nav, 19" alloys, heated seats, 17k, white, full leather.....£19495  
15 15 VW SCIROCCO 2.0 TDI 184 Bluemotion Tech R-Line 3dr DSG Automatic, sat nav, 19" alloys, 38k, silver, full leather.....£14795  
17 67 VOLVO V40 2.0 T3 (152) R-Design Pro 5dr, Volvo warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, 18" alloys, 18k, choice.....£14495  
16 16 VOLVO V60 2.0 D3 (150) R-Design Estate, cruise, aux, usb, red, half-leather.....£12495  
18 18 VOLVO V90 2.0 D4 R-Design Estate Geartronic, Volvo warranty April 2021, sat nav, heated seats, 6k, grey, half-leather.....£26495

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17 67 BMW 116 D Sport 5dr, BMW warranty until September 2020, sat nav, 17" alloys, Bluetooth, dab, usb, 28k.....**£13495**

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**BMW WARRANTY MARCH 2020**  
17 17 BMW 520 D M Sport 4dr Automatic (new model), BMW warranty March 2020, sat nav, cruise, black, full leather.....**£21995**

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**15 15 FIAT 500 1.2 Lounge 3dr, pan roof, air-con, 19k, black.....£5995**

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**15 65 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER EVOQUE 2.0 ED4 SE 5dr, contrast roof, privacy glass, white, full leather.....£20995**

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**16 65 FORD S-MAX 2.0 TDCI Titanium Sport 5dr (7-Seater), sat nav, white.....£16295**

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**16 65 AUDI A1 1.6 TDI Black Edition 5dr, pan roof, cruise, white, half-leather.....£13495**

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**MERC WARRANTY JAN 2020**  
16 66 MERCEDES CLA200 D AMG Line Coupe Automatic, Mercedes warranty Dec 2019, sat nav, cruise, 30k, white.....**£19995**

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**MERC WARRANTY NOV 2020**  
17 67 MERCEDES E220 D AMG Line 2dr 9G-Tronic, Mercedes warranty Nov 2020, sat nav, 19" alloys, reverse camera, 7k, white, half-leather.....**£28995**

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**16 16 BMW 430 D M Sport 2dr Automatic, M sport + pack, body kit, sat nav, reverse camera, individual san marino.....£26495**

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**16 65 AUDI A4 2.0 TDI Black Edition 4dr, sat nav, heated seats, cruise, 27k, grey, half-leather.....£17495**

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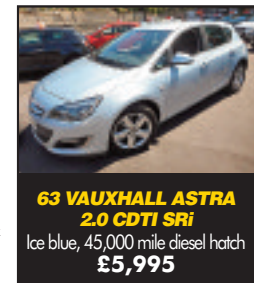
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16 **VW SCIROCCO 2.0 TDI BLUE MOTION TECH** in metallic blue, 46,000 miles, 1 owner ..... **£11,995**  
11 **AUDI A5 S-LINE BLACK EDITION 2.0TDI COUPE** in Monza silver, 48,000 miles ..... **£11,995**  
65 **VW GOLF GTD ESTATE 2.0 TDI AUTO**, metallic red with beige leather, 69,000 miles, sat nav ..... **£10,995**  
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16 **SKODA FABIA 14 TDI SEI 5dr DN** in white, 39,000 miles, 1 owner, high spec ..... **£8,295**  
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65 **CITROEN C4 CACTUS BLUE HDI FEEL 1.6D** In red, 37,000 miles, DAB radio, free road tax ..... **£7,995**  
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60 **MAZDA MX5 i-Roadster 2.0 Automatic** in black, 58,000 miles, FSH ..... **£7,995**  
16 **PEUGEOT 308 ALLURE 1.2 5-dr** in met blue, 59,000 miles, 1 owner, high spec ..... **£7,995**  
14 **VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.4SE AUTOMATIC** Met grey, 30,000 miles, 1 owner ..... **£7,995**  
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- 63 **VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.8 Design Navigation** In red, 27,000 miles, 7 seater ..... **£6,995**  
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60 **FIAT 500 ABARTH Convertible Automatic** in red, 58,000 miles ..... **£6,795**  
64 **FORD FIESTA 1.2 ZETEC 3-Dr** in met grey, 21,000 miles ..... **£6,495**  
63 **PEUGEOT 208 ALLURE 1.2 5-dr** in black, 36,000 miles, low running costs ..... **£6,495**  
13 **FORD C-Max Zetec 1.0 Turbo** In silver, 69,000 miles, low running costs ..... **Reduced by £1,000 to £6,495**  
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61 **FORD FOCUS 16 ECO BOOST Titanium** in met mustard olive, 66,000 miles ..... **£5,995**  
60 **VW GOLF 1.2 TSi 'S' Automatic 5-Dr** in met red, 45,000 miles ..... **£5,995**  
14 **SUZUKI SWIFT 1.2 SZ4 5-dr** in met grey, 36,000 miles, 1 owner ..... **£5,995**  
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59 **VW GOLF 2.0 TDI SE 3-dr** in met grey, 77,000 miles, very nice example ..... **£5,495**  
58 **HONDA FRV 1.8 ESI VETEC Auto 6-seater** in met grey, 65,000 miles ..... **£5,495**  
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63 **HYUNDAI i10 ACTIVE 1.2 5-dr** in silver, 29,000 miles, low insurance ..... **£4,695**  
62 **KIA PICANTO 1.0 5-Dr** in white, 39,000 miles, high spec ..... **£4,695**  
63 **DACIA SANDERO AMBIANCE** in black, 53,000 miles, low running costs ..... **£4,495**  
13 **MITSUBISHI MIRAGE 2 1.2 5-dr** in black, 32,000 miles, low insurance ..... **£4,495**  
12 **PEUGEOT 207 1.6 HDi Allure Estate** in black, 67,000 miles, low running costs ..... **£4,495**  
10 **HONDA CIVIC 1.8 ES 5-dr** in polished grey, 96,000 miles, glass roof ..... **£4,495**  
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13 **SUZUKI ALTO 1.0 SZ Free, 5-Dr**, In cherry pink, 37,000 miles, 1 owner, free road tax ..... **£3,995**  
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## End of winning run for Tigers



**LLANTWIT Major RFC under-13s Tigers were home this weekend, hosting Penallta RFC.**

A strong cross-wind meant that conditions were challenging, but having survived the rain in Bedwas and the gales in Porthcawl in recent weeks, everyone was pleased to see the sun come out in this eagerly-anticipated return fixture.

Having lost by a single point with the last kick of the game late in injury time in December, there was hope of another close game to keep the supporters entertained.

Sadly however, only the travelling support got much enjoyment from the game. Following two impressive away wins, the Tigers had hoped to extended their winning run to three but on this occasion they were not able to deliver to the same high standards.

Penallta played very well, using big players to constantly challenge the home team's defence and getting rewards with a couple of close range tries.

A third try was to follow before the Tigers managed to work their way uphill and start to challenge the visitors' defence.

Constant infringement of the offside line resulted in a run of close-range penalties, but try as they might the Tigers were unable to break the strong Penallta defence and take advantage of the possession and territory.

To make matters worse, the Tigers then lost their top try scorer to injury as captain Dan Bartlett took a blow to the face in attempting to force his way over the line from close range.

Ethan Harding took over captaincy while Ben Raymond was called into action from the bench.

Although playing with the slope in the second half, it was again the visitors who made the better start, taking

advantage of some ineffective tackling by the home team to extend their lead.

It was turning out to be just one of those games for the Tigers, who struggled to get to terms with the conditions, the aggressive opposition and the refereeing of the offside line, much to the displeasure of the home supporters.

There were signs of encouragement however. Winger Cameron Wheadon had a great run on the left wing, while lock Jakub Jeziorski and flanker come centre Kelyn Joseph battled endlessly to fill the gap left by the injured captain.

Tom Jones at scrum half offered a threat, but it was once again centre, and eventual man of the match, Fred O'Carroll, who restored some pride for the home team with a typically determined run to hold off four defenders and score late in the game.

Ethan Harding converted to continue the team's impressive 100 per cent kicking record from the last game with another well-executed kick.

The final whistle confirmed Penallta RFC as deserved winners, so congratulations to them.

The Tigers were left scratching their heads a little to explain the performance, but should be optimistic for the future as new players bed into positions and the team finally get back to training on grass after a winter of non-contact, 3G training.

This week's away fixture at Cwmaman RFC comes at a great time.

*Squad: Kian Barnett, Dan Bartlett (c), Robert Dixon, Thomas George, Blake Gifford, Ethan Harding, Cameron Hegney, Jakub Jeziorski, Harvey Jones, Tom Jones, Kelyn Joseph, Dexter Milburn, Fred O'Carroll, Ben Raymond, Tom Sheldon and Cameron Wheadon.*

SJ

## Day's defence of Open title ended in final

**BRIDGEND'S Ryan Day narrowly failed to defend his Gibraltar Open title when he lost 4-1 to former world champion Stuart Bingham in the final.**

Day won the opening frame with an 83 clearance after Bingham missed a red on a break of 48.

But the 2015 world champion then

made breaks of 100, 84 and 103 en route to victory.

The win earned Bingham £25,000, while his run to the final clinched him a place in the lucrative Tour Championship.

Day, from Pontycymer, is ranked 17th in the world. Aged 38, he has won around £1.6 million in a 20-year professional career.

Michael Prosser

## News from On and Off The Turf with Brian Lee

**POTTERS Corner and Prime Venture, both trained in the Vale, took first and fourth places respectively in last Saturday's Midlands Grand National over a gruelling four miles and one-furlong heavy going course.**

Former National Hunt jockey, Ogmore-by-Sea's Christian Williams, had his biggest win yet when he saddled *Potters Corner*. The first prize was £84,405.

Given a great ride by 18-year-old James Bowen from Pembrokeshire, who also has a Welsh Grand National winner to his credit, nine-year-old *Potters Corner*, a 20-1 chance, and a faller in his two previous races, ploughed through the mud and rain to score by two lengths from *MS Parfois*.

*Prime Venture*, trained by Evan Williams, a former national champion point-to-point rider and partnered by stable jockey Adam Wedge, was fourth of the 18 starters.

Christian, one-time assistant trainer to no-relation Evan Williams, said: "It's great. He was a bit wobbly in his previous races the Eider Chase and the Somerset National but he's pulled his jumping together now. We've worked hard at it the last fortnight and it's all come together now. It's great to win a race like this and James is a special talent."

James, like Christian a former point-to-point rider, said: "*Potters Corner* was always travelling well. I think I used to send him into his fences too much asking for big ones."

This was a much different race in slower ground. He's done great and has a big heart."

Welsh rugby international centre Jonathan Davies is a member of the syndicate which own *Potters Corner*.

Later in the afternoon, Bowen, riding his father Peter Bowen's *Cougar's Gold*, a 17-2 chance, won the handicap hurdle race while earlier in the day Adam Wedge had taken the Novices' Handicap Chase on the Emma Lavelle-trained *De Rasher Counter*.

**DEBRA'S NEAR MISS**  
Carmarthenshire trainer Debra Hamer came close to saddling her biggest winner yet when her nine-year-old *ToBeFair* failed by just a neck to catch the Irish-trained *Sire Du Berlais* in the Pertemps Network Final Handicap Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival meeting on Thursday, March 14.

The pub syndicate horse, a 40-1 chance, partnered by Tom Bellamy, earned his connections £21,270 for his late effort compared to the £56,270 which went to the winner, who was ridden by Barry Geraghty. Debra's husband Paul is a former Welsh champion point-to-point rider and like Debra hails from the Bridgend area.

Charlie Price, a leading Arabian horse racing jockey, who rides out for Vale trainer Tim Vaughan, landed the Conditional Jockeys' Mares Handicap Hurdle at Hexham on the Tom Symonds-trained *Llantara*.

Meanwhile the Brecon and Talybont Hunt Point-to-Point Steeplechases at Llanfrynach were rained

off and they will now take place on Saturday, March 23.

**ANOTHER WINNER FOR CONNOR**  
There's no stopping the Vale's Connor Brace.

At Market Rasen on Thursday, March 14, the seven pound-claiming jockey who has been in such good form of late and who is attached to Ben Pauling's Cotswold yard riding his gnovn's *Big Difference*, a 13-2 chance, in the handicap hurdle beat the odds-on favourite *Jurys Out* by two-and-a-half lengths.

**CHRISTIAN'S DOUBLE**  
Ogmore-by-Sea's Christian Williams had plenty to smile about at Fakenham on Friday, March 15.

His six-year-old old *Cap Du Nord*, the youngest horse in the Fakenham Staff Fundraising Run For Air Ambulance Handicap Chase, made it three wins on the bounce when coming home four lengths ahead of *Nobel Leader* and later in the afternoon his *Sideways*, at eight the youngest of the five runners in the Prince Carlton Handicap Chase, beat the Peter Bowen-trained *Henryville*.

Both winners were ridden by Peter Bowen's son James Bowen, who in the following ToteExacta Fakenham Silver Cup Handicap Hurdle was successful on the Richard Spencer-trained *ThisTimeNextYear*.

**LAST DAY IS FIRST**  
Vale trainer Evan Williams had several fancied runners at rained-off Ffos Las on Sunday but *The Last Day*, the only horse he had entered at far flung Carlisle, landed the Racing TV.Com Novices'

Chase under stable jockey Adam Wedge.

Runner-up in its previous two starts, seven-year-old *The Last Day* was made the 4-9 favourite in a field of just four runners and won easily by eight lengths from *Trongate*, ridden by Ross Chapman.

**DANIEL'S WINNER**

Daniel Ellis, aged 14, from the Vale, riding his six-year-old bay mare *O'Flynn's Daughter*, won the mile pony race at the Dart Vale & Haldon Harriers Point-to-Point Steeplechases at Buckfastleigh last Sunday, where Cowbridge's Byron Moorcroft won the open maiden race division one on the 5-2 joint favourite *Matts Legacy*.

However, in the men's open race, Byron's mount *Spencer Moon*, the odds-on favourite, led until the third last fence, only to be overtaken by *Whenharrymetsally* ridden by Matt Hampton and was beaten a length.

**TIM'S 20-1 WINNER**

*Adherence*, who was racing in public for the first time in 361 days, landed the Cornish Rock Gin RNLI Handicap Hurdle at Taunton for Aberthin's Tim Vaughan on Tuesday, March 19.

The six-year-old gelding, a 20-1 shot, was partnered by James Best and won by three parts of a length from the bottom weighted *Menapian*.

## League title hopes dented as Barry Town United slip to home loss

**BARRY Town United's JD Welsh Premier League chances suffered another setback on Saturday, this time at the hands of battling Bala Town, as the title outsiders slipped to a second straight defeat on a windy afternoon at Jenner Park.**

Saturday's clash was the second attempt at fulfilling this fixture in the space of five weeks, after the initial game on February 9 fell victim to floodlight failure, unceremoniously cutting short S4C's live coverage in unexpected style.

However, there would be no repeat of the off-field controversy that curtailed that evening, nor of the handball hijinks that decided Bala's preceding visit.

Instead Colin Caton's visitors, on a six-match winless run, left Jenner Park with their heads held high, his Lakesiders recording a first Welsh Premier League victory since Boxing Day's 2-1 triumph against Connah's Quay Nomads, a result that notably helped Barry wrap up 2018 on top of the national division.

Now, Gavin Chesterfield's third-placed team are without a win of their own in five and left looking over their shoulder, though fourth-placed Newtown's 2-0 defeat at Connah's Quay on Friday evening ensured the Robins remain six points adrift of Barry and a potential Europa League spot at the international break.

As matters stand, a third-placed finish would secure automatic qualification for the preliminary stages, pending either of the top two winning the JD Welsh Cup.

After early defensive difficulties had

blighted the previous weekend's trip to Latham Park, Chesterfield recalled Lewis Cosslett for Saturday's battle with Bala, the tenured centre-back making a first appearance of 2019 after injury.

Unfortunately, Barry's trend of conceding before the break reared its ugly head once more, as former Bolton Wanderers and Bradford City man Andrew Burns fired into the net on 32 minutes, after the hosts were unable to clear from a corner.

A motivated Bala had already posed a threat to Barry's goal via Wales C international Chris Venables and almost scored when Henry Jones' hit from long range came back off the bar, before Mike Hayes forced a save out of namesake Mike Lewis.

The second half spawned attempts from both men, while the announcement of Wales' Grand Slam victory elicited one of the few cheers of the day from the home fans.

After Clayton Green's long-distance effort was held by Bala goalkeeper Ashley Morris, the Lakesiders found themselves with a golden chance to settle things from the spot, as Barry defender Luke Cooper was penalised for fouling Hayes.

While the decision was the subject of hot debate, the outcome proved definitive, as the established and prolific Venables drove his effort into the Barry net to double the visitors' advantage, with only 15 minutes remaining.

The introduction of Louis Gerrard and Sam Snaith proved a last roll of the dice, yet despite a penalty shout for Gerrard and two late opportunities for newcomer Snaith, it was Bala who came closest to adding to their tally, as Jones hit the post

and the venerable Venables struck the woodwork twice in the closing stages.

Bala's 2-0 win sees them climb to 38 points, behind Caernarfon on 40, Newtown on 43, Barry on 46 and The New Saints on 56, while Connah's Quay now lead the pack again with 48 points, as champions TNS were without a fixture this past weekend.

Barry's defeat was just their third at home in the JD Welsh Premier League since October 2017, with only Bala and TNS winning at Jenner Park in those 17 months.

What may be of more concern is that Saturday saw Barry's lowest home attendance of the entire season, although head-to-head scheduling with the concluding part of the Wales vs Ireland international certainly did this 4pm fixture no favours.

A healthier turnout is anticipated for this coming Saturday, March 23, when Barry welcome the league's best-supported club, Caernarfon Town, to Jenner Park. The Canaries have recorded a host of four-figure crowds of late and took over 1,000 supporters to neighbouring Bangor City in the JD Welsh Cup Fourth Round.

Though fewer members of the Cofi Army are expected to make the long journey to Barry, a decent number should be in store for this traditional 2.30pm kick-off. Meanwhile, anticipation continues to build for the 2018-19 JD Welsh Cup semi-finals and the first-ever semi-final meeting between Barry and The New Saints.

The one-off tie, Barry's first at this stage since 2013, will take place at Newtown's neutral Latham Park on Saturday, March 30, kicking off at 7.30pm.

AC

Got a sports story, match report or item of interest?

Then get in touch with us - email [sport@glamorgan-gem.co.uk](mailto:sport@glamorgan-gem.co.uk)





# Roles are reversed as Wales shut the door on Irish dreams and claim the Grand Slam

RIGHT:

*The champagne corks have popped, and it's time for Wales to celebrate a Grand Slam.*

Match report by Philip Irwin.

Photographs by the Huw Evans Agency.

**WALES** versus Ireland with a Grand Slam at stake is as big as it gets in the Principality Stadium, but this was also a game between two New Zealanders who have made a massive mark on the northern hemisphere.

For Warren Gatland and for Joe Schmidt it was their final Six Nations game and both, of course, are former Leinster coaches.

However, despite those similarities, you could never mistake a Gatland team for a Schmidt one, and over the last few years, the force has definitely been with the Ireland coach.

Until Saturday, when the Irish possession-based game stuttered and stumbled.

Wales got off to the best possible start when they kicked off high and long and George North forced his opposite number into touch. From the line-out Wales attacked and won a penalty and outside half Gareth Anscombe used that penalty advantage to conjure an exquisite chip, with the outside of his foot, to deceive the defence and all centre Hadleigh Parkes had to do was catch it. The conversion made it 7 - 0 and the match was barely two minutes old.

When Wales played England, there was a moment when Parkes was horribly exposed by

Jonny May's pace, and I remember talking to friends and wondering if his time in international rugby might be up.

A man-of-the-match performance in Scotland put paid to that idea, and he gave another example of how crucial he is just four minutes later. Ireland were awarded a penalty, and Jonny Sexton cross kicked for the formidable Jacob Stockdale, who caught it, slipped his man and looked to be in the clear for an equalising try.

In the clear until Parkes, showing that anticipation and acceleration is different from straight line speed, produced a magnificent cover tackle.

The penalty that led to the cross kick could have had other consequences for Wales. Chasing an Anscombe kick, Josh Adams slid in and, realising that the defender was going to evade him, raised his foot just enough to make contact and trip him.

It could well have been a yellow (or even a red in the view of a pedantic ref) but he got away with it. The Australian referee, Angus Gardner, is one of the new breed of young (just 35) and pragmatic refs who seem to want to help the game flow, and he was smart and relaxed all the way through, and not afraid to change his mind if he spotted something on the TV replay.

On the 10-minute mark, George North went off with a hand injury, and the reshuffle saw Anscombe move to full back, Liam Williams go



on North's wing, and Dan Biggar take over at outside half.

In theory, there was potential for disruption, but everything continued smoothly.

In fact, one of Warren Gatland's many achievements has been to take the heat out of the traditional Welsh outside half debate. Over the years, it has been a toxic problem, with the crowd getting too partisan by half. Rhys Priestland was the last outside half to suffer but, at long last, the general view seems to be that "Warren knows best".

After 17 minutes, Wales were awarded a penalty 49 metres out, which seemed a touch outside of Anscombe's range but he took it and produced a magnificent kick to make it 10 - 0. Bigger's left leg was heavily strapped, so perhaps that was a factor in the decision. Whatever the reason, as the match progressed it turned out to be an inspired one.

Ireland were departing from their traditional game plan and from the next kick off, they were penalised again, until Gareth Davies started a scuffle by tackling Bundee Aki on the ground, prompting referee Gardner to reverse the penalty. That penalty took Ireland into the Wales 22, where they were awarded another penalty. Sexton chose to pass up the three points, opting to kick for the corner and, hindsight being a wonderful thing, he might have been better to get some points on the board.

Wales held the drive and, as has been the case all season, Shaun Edwards' defensive curtain did the rest.

The attack petered out when CJ Stander fumbled, prompting Eddie Butler to remark to Jamie Heaslip: "Slippery ball, Jamie, perhaps you should have had the roof shut."

The game continued to go against expectations. Ireland messed up a line out, Wales stole the ball and Alun Wyn Jones went on a charge, and Ireland were penalised. This kick was from 43 metres, but once again Anscombe kicked the goal.

Four minutes before half time, referee Gardner reversed his call of a knock on, saying simply "I got the call wrong". The Irish were none too happy that Wales now had the put in, and they were even less happy when they were penalised at the scrum, giving Anscombe the chance to take the score to 16 - 0, from 25 metres this time.

Oh to have been a fly on the wall for Joe Schmidt's half time talk. He has built a side designed to take control of a game and squeeze the life out of the opposition. Chasing a game is not their strength.

The old joke (possibly Irish?) applies. It's the one where a man stops his car to ask for directions and receives the response: "Ah well, sir, if I were you, I wouldn't start from here!"

At the start of the second half, the rain came down heavier, and after six minutes, prop Cian Healy was penalised, a touch harshly, for a no arms tackle and Anscombe kicked the penalty once again, making it 19 - 0. The Irish plan had presumably used the phrase "we need to score first" so for

Welsh fans, it was (almost) time to relax and enjoy the occasion.

From the restart, Sexton kicked long. Too long. Jonathan Davies was able to smile as he watched it roll dead.

From the scrum at half way, Gareth Davies took advantage of a solid platform to make a break into the Irish half and, although they turned the ball over, the green shirts could make no progress at all, and Conor Murray was forced to kick for touch.

At that lineout, Ireland were penalised again and Anscombe, this time from 45 metres, punished them again.

From then on, although the rugby was still intense, it was a case of watching the clock. When there were 20 minutes left, Ireland needed 23 points to get back, and that looked impossible. Every two minutes that passed just emphasised the margin.

What's more, Ireland continued to make errors. The TMO, Marius Jonker, had a quiet day, but he was called in to rule whether Keith Earls had slipped up and carried the ball over his line when he was seeking to minor it.

He had, and Wales were happy for the five-metre scrum to be reset about three times, watching the clock keep on ticking.

Ireland cleared their lines and applied some pressure but, on 68 minutes, Sexton uncharacteristically lost possession, prompting Josh Adams to make a good break. Ireland were penalised at the ruck, and Anscombe made it seven out of seven, a 20-point haul, and took the score to 25 - 0.

It was no surprise that he took the man of the match award, although Alun Wyn Jones, and the entire Welsh back row of Moriarty, Tipuric and Navidi must have been contenders.

It is noticeable that, under Shaun Edwards' defensive masterplan, the back row stay on for almost all of the match, only being replaced when the game is safe.

The final few minutes passed with only one question. Could Ireland get a consolation score?

One suspects that a certain former Wigan scrum half was burning to record a clean sheet, but finally Ireland did put together a long, error-free passage of play, and substitute Jordan Larmour was able to use some quick footwork to cross for a try that was converted by another sub, Jack Carty.

This Six Nations performance will send Wales off to the World Cup in good heart. Who wants to make predictions? These days, rugby has such a high attrition rate when it comes to injuries that predictions are difficult, but Wales do have strength in depth. In many ways, Scotland's has been the best performance, given the number of injuries they picked up during the competition.

After the game, Warren Gatland couldn't resist the line "Did we look tired?" grinning from ear to ear. Perhaps it was Eddie Jones' England who were tired.

Philip Irwin

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